

Cambridge Castle End Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
relating to the area bounded by Castle Street, Northampton Street & Mount Pleasant  
including the Folk Museum, Shire Hall, County Gaol, Assize Courts  
and the churches of St Peter and St Giles  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the  
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the  
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at  
[bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection)

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.  
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in  
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library  
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the  
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 06 21

Such has been the general progress during the Victorian era that it is difficult from the point of view of today to recall the Cambridge of 1837. In the year of her Majesty's accession but few houses stood on the marshy spot which we now know as the populous district of New Town. There were a few residents in Newnham and some scattered dwellings in the neighbourhood of New-square while beyond on the Newmarket-road lay Barnwell of historic note. Chesterton, as a part of Cambridge, was confined to the outgrowth of the town in the neighbourhood of Castle Hill and a plan of the town stops short at the Mill-road corner of Parker's Piece. In 1837 the population would be about 21,000. Recently it has been estimated at over 50,000.

1897 12 16

Castle Hill Institute, p3

1897 12 23

A laundress of Gloucester Street, Cambridge, was charged at the Borough Court with keeping a woman at work for more than 14 hours. Annie Sindell said she commenced work at 9.30 am Friday and worked until ten past six the next morning. She had an hour and a quarter for meals. The day was supposed to be of 12 hours, less meal times, and for that they got 1s.3d. She never agreed to work all night but the laundress would have the work done. She earned 7s.6d. for the whole week. The overtime pay was a penny an hour. The laundress was fined 7s.6. and costs

1898 01 06

Sewage explosion, Castle End, p3

1898 08 16

Girls in assault, Castle End, p2

1898 08 17

Castle End children case, p2

1898 08 30

Castle End tin-kettling, p3

1898 10 05

The annual report of the Cambridge public Free Library has been issued. Under competent management and the able direction of Mr Pink, it has continuously added to its resources. It is now as well equipped as anyone could desire. It has a reference library and in the Shakespeare and dramatic collections a special features of great interest and real value. Moreover there is the branch library at Mill road with 6,600 volumes and during the past year reading rooms have been opened at East road and Castle end. The people who enjoy these facilities of access to the best literature may well be envied by those who do not

1898 10 14

The eccentricity of a horse at Chesterton last night caused its driver and a fare some alarm. It bolted along Chesterton lane at a furious rate, resisting all the efforts of the driver to get it under control. The animal made a tour of Old Chesterton in record time and returned by the Milton road. At this point the driver came to the conclusion it was quite useless trying to hold the horse in any longer and advised the gentleman inside the cab to "quit". He took a flying leap into the darkness and grazed his face somewhat severely. The driver fell off the box and the off wheel passed over his legs. Continuing his career the horse came into collision with a gatepost at Northampton Street which knocked it on its hindquarters

1898 11 10

Mr Wootten told Cambridge town council there were four cottages at Castle end in a most horrible state. He said they were a disgrace to the corporation. They might talk about building houses for the poor, when all the time the corporation owned cottages which were not fit to put pigs in. Mr Campkin said some of their property was in a very bad state, some of the houses were very very old, and it would be a question of whether they should not pull the old structures down and rebuild them

1899 10 17

The formal opening took place of Westminster College, the theological college which the Presbyterian Church of England has established at Cambridge for the training of students for the ministry. It is a great thing that the work has been done so well in so short a time, but a much greater thing that the cost of building it – albeit over £40,000 has all been met. Professor Ryle, President of Queens', extended a welcome to the new college.

1900 06 14

An inquest on a boy of eight, killed by a bus on Castle Hill, affirmed the death was accidental. It is hardly an exaggeration to describe Chesterton Corner as the death trap of Cambridge. Four road meet; they are all narrow, and the configuration of the corner is such that it is quite impossible for the driver of a vehicle up Magdalene Street to have the faintest notion that there is another coming along Chesterton Lane and if the two do not crash into each other it will be more of an accident than if they do. More room is needed at the corner. This would involve pulling down some old houses. The matter is one which the authorities ought to give attention at once.

1900 12 31

Baker's Arms, Shelley Row, p2

1902 03 10

Another case of smallpox has occurred at Cambridge Prison, Castle Hill. The spread of the disease is a mystery. The first case was in a prisoner from Maidstone. Prompt isolation followed. Another was found suffering from an infectious disease diagnosed as scarlet fever and he was moved to the Sanatorium. Other symptoms developed and he died. A few hours after a warder was smitten with smallpox and now there is a fourth case, a prisoner confined in the gaol for several months. Elsewhere infection has been traced to letters that have come from London where the epidemic is now raging. At Cambridge gaol mailbags are repaired in large numbers. They come from all parts of the country and may have carried the microbes that cause the disease.

1902 05 07

It will probably surprise many that there is no telephonic communication between Cambridge Police Court and the County Gaol. This morning when a trial was to have proceeded it was reported that the defendant was too unwell to leave prison. The question was asked as to how long he was likely to be absent and a special messenger was sent to Dr Buckingham, the Prison Surgeon. The Chairman said they were surprised to find there were some antiquated notions which had prevented the telephone from being laid on between the two places and thought councillors should see it was remedied

1902 07 17

Cambridge Paving Committee had approached the vicar and churchwardens of St Giles' church to ascertain whether it would be possible to acquire a portion of the churchyard for the widening of Castle Street. They would agree provided that the work of excavating and collecting human remains be screened by a hoarding & the bodies reverently re-interred. Chesterton Road corner was a most dangerous one and when the improvement was carried out one corner out of the four would be cut back.

1903 06 18

Two cottages in Albion Row belonging to Cambridge Corporation and next to the Nag's Head public house are in such an unsatisfactory state that it would be inadvisable to execute any repairs; they should be pulled down and new cottages erected in their place. By setting back the frontage it will

increase the width of the road and render a further improvement possible when the lease of the adjoining property falls in.

1903 07 16

Mount Pleasant steps, p3

1903 08 04

Cambridge Borough has had its pride wounded by the London Express charging it with having incurable slums and possessing filthier homes than Whitechapel. In reply Mr Campkin, a Guardian said: "There is no doubt there is an amount of poverty and squalor in Cambridge but there has been a vast improvement in the St Matthew's district over the last 40 years. There is evidence of the effects of drink in some parts of the town but in the Romsey and Petersfield district the residents are respectable working people". Commenting on the Cambridge slums Dr Roper said: "I think even the very worst are fast becoming demolished; take St Peter's Court, Castle Street, they are pulling that down. In consequence that there are large families in the poor quarters a woman very often has to go out and work as well as her husband to keep things going, and they can't keep their houses quite so clean as they otherwise might. In New Street you will not see much dirt or dilapidation, though in summer time the people are sitting outside nearly half-dressed in consequence of the heat. But their homes are not so bad as you might imagine

1903 09 17

Mount Pleasant steps, p3

1903 11 06

Time once was when the concentrated animosity between Cambridge Town and Gown found annual outlet on 'The Fifth'. There are many old inhabitants who have seen the traditional riots gradually die down with the building up of mutual ties between University and Town. Athletic Varsitymen and pugilistic townsmen no longer belabour each other; they join issue in attempts at bonfires with police baiting thrown in as a sideline. At Castle End undergraduates managed to secure a shutter with the intention of making it the nucleus of a bonfire; a constable was rolled to the ground, his helmet knocked off and his whistle and truncheon lost before more policemen arrived and three arrests were made – one member of the Varsity, a soldier and a townsman

1905 01 21

A serious charge has been brought against the trumpeters who, on the occasion of the Assize at Cambridge, blow a fanfare as the judge steps from his carriage at the Shire hall. They are accused of being unable to keep in tune and wailing as diversely as any pair of cats. I would not undertake to estimate their ability as musicians, but as a sort of variety turn they certainly take a high place. But the learned judge expressed himself highly pleased with the way they performed their duties. # 05 01 21

1905 04 15

The rival Cambridge buses ran trial trips round the town to demonstrate the suitability of this form of traction and both were eminently successful. The Thorneycroft's hill-climbing capacities were tested on Castle Hill and seemed to present no difficulties except a decrease in speed; the Straker-Squire passed with the greatest ease. Both naturally created somewhat of a sensation in the streets and the way they threaded their way in and out of the busy traffic excited much admiration. They were under perfect control and could pass through traffic where a horsed vehicle would have to wait its turn. 05 04 15

1905 04 18

Bertram Palmer, the Melbourn Passive Resister said the County Gaol seemed to be the busiest place in Cambridge. It was like a beehive. There were a number of cells and a busy bee in each one. The warder gave him a number of mail bags to patch and said he expected to see them done by the next day. He had to keep things clean in his cell. He was given a bucket, a scrubbing brush, a piece of stone and a piece of cloth. It was not at all amusing being in gaol but he had been the 150th Passive Resister to go there and he would go again if he thought it would aid the cause. 05 04 18-c

1906 03 08

The Beehive public house, Honey Hill, Cambridge had four rooms on the ground floor, including a parlour and a taproom for the use of customers. There was a front entrance from Honey Hill and a side entrance which also gave access to four cottages. It was therefore impossible for the police to maintain proper supervision as a constable would be seen going down there and people could slip out. There were 15 other public houses within 200 yards.

1906 04 19

Collins Passage, off Northampton Street, consisted of a number of very dilapidated houses closely packed together. They had low ceilings and the floor was insecure. There was no ventilation behind and a high brick wall at the front so they got no sun at all except for half-an-hour at the height of summer. They were unfit for human habitation. A good many other premises in the area were defective but did not justify wholesale demolition. 06 04 19c

1906 10 25

Albion Row, p3

1906 11 17

Licensing compensation – Honey Hill Beehive – 06 11 17 a & b & c

1907 01 02

A warm well-lighted room in St Paul's Institute New Town was opened as a reading room. There was a collection of current literature ready for the first arrivals who drew chairs to the tables and took advantage of the comfort and facilities provided. The Free Library was one of the most popular institutions in Cambridge, ten years ago a branch was established at Mill Road with other reading rooms at Castle End and East Road. 07 01 02 & 2a

1907 03 16

Castle End Reading Room – 07 03 16

1907 03 19

Some years ago Cambridge Free Library opened a public reading room at the Castle End Mission and Working Men's Institute. It has proved a boon to those who have used it. However the Institute's work is growing and their newly-formed men's club now has a comfortable room well equipped with daily, weekly and monthly papers, a cosy parlour for games, conversation & smoking and a first-class billiard room with full-sized table. Membership is open to all men over 18. 07 03 19

1907 06 12

Northampton Street was very narrow and the corner was one of the most dangerous in Cambridge. A policeman was always on point duty there. The improvement was a most desirable one and nobody objected to it, an inquiry was told. Nine cottages would be demolished and the people rehoused in others nearby. 07 06 12a

1907 06 22

The chimes of St Giles church clock in Cambridge have been restored after a silence of six years. Notice was given in the Parish Magazine but all do not read that excellent periodical and there was much astonishment when the bells entered anew upon their purpose of telling out the hours. The tone of the large bell is much improved now it has been re-hung so that it no longer rests against the wall 07 06 22c

1907 08 08

Cambridge councillors recommended that a site in Albion Row occupied by the weigh-bridge and the Nag's Head should be offered on a building lease for 75 years and in case no satisfactory offer was

received they should prepare a scheme for the erection of cottages. But first they must adopt the Housing of the Working Classes Act. 07 08 08

1907 12 31

The Cambridge Railway Building Works, better known as the firm of William Saint and Sons, entertained 170 employees to dinner at the Lion Hotel. It started in 1880 and the first job was two villas on Mill Road, later came the Cattle Market contract but Westminster College, in 1900 was the largest project they had ever tackled. They were known for the quality and execution of their work which was due to men such as Vigers, Hodson, Coe, Willmott, Taylor, Lobb and Haynes. 07 12 31 & a

1908 01 24

The owner of the Cow and Calf public house in Shelley Row has told councillors that if they will surrender the licences for the Nag's Head and Baker's Arms pubs – which they own – then he will give up land to allow for the widening of Albion Row. If they agreed to extend his lease he'd also give land for the construction of more cottages and a backway to the Pound in St Peter's Street. 08 01 24a & b

1908 03 05

The Waggon and Horses on the corner of Burleigh Street and East already held a music licence. They had a commodious room capable of holding 50 people which they wished to use for public dancing once a week. But the Chief Constable said it was in an awkward part of Cambridge. A lot of people visited the house and it would not be well to offer further facilities. The licensee had his hands full in looking after the pub as it was at present. also Nags Head, Albion Row; Spotted Cow, Northampton St; Carpenter's Arms, King Street. 08 03 05 a & b

1908 04 17

When the jury retired to consider their verdict at the Assize Court, Castle Hill, they were taken down a flight of cold stone steps into a narrow chamber of sordid aspect, dimly lit by three barred windows and furnished with two bare wooden forms. The Court does not want the retiring room made too comfortable, but there must have been times when they have made up their minds hastily to escape from that dungeon. Now a new room has been built, with a lavatory. But the court is still illuminated by gas and flooded with fumes. Silver-tongued barristers halt while the custodian, armed with his long pole, leans from the dock to light it. 08 04 17c

1908 05 16

A wardress at the County Gaol, Castle Hill, told the inquest that a single mother and her baby had been put in the reception cell and slept on a plank bed with a mattress. In the morning the baby was dead and she concluded the prisoner had overlaid it. There was no room for cradles in reception cells, which were very small, and when they were provided in the main cells the mothers never thought of laying babies there at night. The Coroner did not attach any blame to anyone. The narrow bed was altogether insufficient for the child and mother and now they knew that would not happen again. The jury said a cot should be provided. 08 05 16b

1908 09 04

Sir – now the widening of Northampton Street is fast nearing completion the improvement of one of our many narrow and dangerous streets will be accomplished. But one effect will be that the traffic is greatly accelerated to the danger of those approaching the corner from other directions. The high wall around St Giles' church should be reduced: this would enable motorists to see more clearly, make the church more conspicuous and dry the road which in winter is often in a muddy condition, being hemmed in on both sides by high walls – Chestertonian. CWN 08 09 04 p7

1908 09 18

The antics of 'The Castle End Musicians', a band of boys and girls, have caused endless entertainments to the inhabitants of that part of Cambridge. A lad who has had some experienced of



the Boy's Brigade is the commander of the band, who form up in martial order, large and small, girl and boy, and parade up and down the streets with colours flying, playing the most extraordinary collection of musical instruments ever seen including toy drums and mouth organs. Now a local photographer has elevated them to picture postcard celebrities. CWN 08 09 18 p5

1908 09 25

Tenancy of Nag's Head – to close, Albion Row houses – 08 09 25 p6

1908 12 25

There were stirring times in the neighbourhood of Honey Hill with police whistles blowing and gentlemen in blue uniforms running down alleys in hot pursuit while crowds looked on. The lynx-eyed PC Evans saw two men carrying something suspicious who ran off when challenged. A vigorous chase ensued before they got away, but they flung their booty over a wall. Four dead turkeys have been recovered. CWN 08 12 25

1909 01 01

F.W. Fawcett was the architect of many Cambridge buildings including the Cavendish Laboratory & various departments in the New Museums site. He undertook the restoration of a large part of Queens' College, designed additions to Addenbrooke's Hospital, remodelled the County Gaol & built the Training College for Women, the County Police Station, several college boathouses and cricket pavilions as well as several large mansions including Longstowe and Six Mile Bottom. CWN 09 01 01

1909 02 12

Wickliffe Preachers paid a visit to St Clement's church while the vicar was hearing confessions and asked him to produce his authority for hearing confessions in the Church of England. An argument ensued and the vicar locked the Preacher in the church whilst he sent for the police. They then visited St Giles and sat down near the curate and an undergraduate who was confessing, refusing to move. Thereupon the curate whispered to the student to go to the vestry where they locked themselves in. In the evening there was a banner procession through the streets but a Protestant meeting was broken up by undergraduates. CWN 09 02 12

1909 03 05

The Rose and Crown, Pound Hill, was damp with paper peeling from the wall. There were seven other licenced premises nearby which all did better trade. But the landlord said he exercised great discretion in the customers he encouraged. Other pubs were frequented by the lower class. If it were closed it would be an inducement to the others not to cater for the better and quieter class but to draw a larger number just so they could boost their sales of beer, Magistrates renewed the licence. Also Traveller's Rest Huntingdon Road, White Horse in Coronation Street, Prince of Wales in Church St, Fox & Duck South Street, Oxford in Crispin Street, Johnny Gilpin in Gold Street & Prince Albert Castle Street. CWN 09 03 05

1909 03 19

Mr W.B. Redfern's unique collection of watercolour drawings of old Cambridge excited great interest. In 1875 he started to record places of bygone and antiquarian interest which but for his timely intervention would have been lost for ever. A good many had now entirely disappeared including two houses in Shelley Row which were the residence of Oliver Cromwell during the Civil War. They were panelled with two handsome fireplaces which he had moved to his own house. Old houses in Petty Cury were the most striking and perfect places which should never have been pulled down while parts of the Falcon Yard had remained until the last few years. 09 03 19

1909 04 23 c

The floor of the day nursery at Mill Road workhouse was not in a fit state for children to play on. There was a two-foot space and loose earth underneath the boards which caused a bad fungus, overseers heard. A wood block floor would be the best way of dealing with it but they did not wish to expend so much at this time. The Master reported the receipt of illustrated papers and a present of

books from the Reading Room in St Peter's Street. Mrs Ridley of St Barnabas Road had sent a rocking horse. 09 04

1909 04 16

In a shoeing forge at Northampton Street, Cambridge, is to be seen a massive silver cup, the trophy of the Middle Weight Amateur Boxing Championships for 1909. In the same forge is a young smith, a splendid specimen of manhood with arms and legs of remarkable development. He is Mr William Child who for two years has carried off the Middle Weight Championship of England. 09 04 16

1909 05 15

Another of the veterans who took part in the Indian Mutiny more than 50 years ago, died in the Cambridge workhouse. George Redmond, who was born in Castle End, had a great desire to become a soldier of the Queen and ran away to join the army. Several other local boys were with him preparing for service in the Crimea when arrangements were altered and he was despatched to India. He remained a private until he left the army when he returned to Cambridge. 09 05 15

1909 07 09

There had been an outcry after Cambridge Corporation destroyed eight tenements when improving Northampton Street. Now they wanted to erect houses for persons of the working class on land in Albion Row, Lady Margaret Road and the Haymarket. Some would be on the site of the old cattle market. This had previously been moved to St Andrew's Hill, then in 1842 to Pound Hill and in 1887 to its present site near the railway station, an Inspector was told. CWN 09 07 09

1909 10 31

Antiquaries will regret to hear that this week workmen are engaged in removing an interesting building in Castle End. It is an old barn, situated in Shelley Row and in it rested the French prisoners who were captured in the Peninsular War (1809-1814), on their march from the South of England to the great prison at Norman Cross. For a number of years the barn, which is a lofty building with a thatched roof, was occupied by a Mr Henry Herring Smith who carried on a blacksmith's business. He sold it to a Mr White and said that he clearly remembered the French prisoners using the barn as a resting-place. He could remember them making dominoes and dice out of bones, which they sold through the bars to people as curios. [CIP 09 10 31]

1909 11 05

Kettles Yard houses unfit for human habitation – CWN 09 11 05

1909 11 12

Damage was caused to the house of Mr A. Carter, cab proprietor and common lodging-house keeper on Honey Hill, formerly known as the Beehive beerhouse. Fire broke out in the former tap room, now used as a bedroom. It appears his wife went into the room for some wearing apparel and the flame from her candle ignited some fancy mats hanging on the chest of drawers. A quantity of shawls, dresses and bonnets which were hanging on the wall, some brushes and the ceiling were damaged. Another fire in the basement of a lodging house at 17 Market Hill was noticed by undergraduates and extinguished by buckets of water. CWN 09 11 12

1909 12 31

The 250-year-old Tithe Barn in Shelley-Row, Castle End is to be pulled down to make way for new houses. It is still in good repair with patches of new straw used to mend the high and thickly-thatched roof. It was used as a resting-place by the French prisoners taken in the Peninsular War during their journey to the prison camp at Norman Cross. Many people bought objects such as dice and dominoes they made from the bones of the meat supplied to them. The 'True Blue' in Hobson Street was also one of the billets. CWN 09 12 31

1910 02 04

Luke Hosegood, the Master, told Guardians there were 26 children in Cambridge workhouse. A large number of men had brought in their wives and families simply because they had been evicted from



their houses as the result of slum clearance. There were several cases from Cambridge Place and a number from Castle End and if they went in at this rate all Castle End would be pauperised soon. It was getting a very serious matter. 10 02 04g

1910 02 04

Licencing – Borough Boys Northampton St, & others – 10 02 04e & f

1910 06 17

At the last stroke of eight o'clock in the morning James Henry Hancock paid the extreme penalty of the law for the murder of Alfred Doggett at Chesterton. The execution took place at the County Gaol, Castle Hill. Pierpoint was the executioner, assisted by his brother, and they accomplished their deadly work with marvellous celerity, death having been absolutely instantaneous. Only the Deputy Sheriff, the Governor of the Prison, the Prison Chaplain and Doctor were present but a crowd of several hundred assembled on the pavement opposite the Shire Hall. They kept their gaze fixed on the flag-staff, unaware that the practice of hoisting the black flag has been discontinued. Nor was the bell tolled. 10 06 17b

1910 06 17

It is 12 years since the extreme penalty of the law was last paid within the walls of the County Gaol. The last culprit was Walter Horsford, the notorious St Neots poisoner, who was hanged on 28th June 1898 for the murder of his cousin. Prior to that there was a long period during which the hangman was not called upon for it was as far back as December 1876 that Robert Browning was executed for the murder of a woman on Midsummer Common. The last public execution in the county was in March 1864 when a man was hanged for the murder of a girl at Whittlesey. Shortly after this the law was passed putting a stop to executions in public and the tendency now is for complete privacy 10 06 17c

1910 12 16

The crowds outside the Shire Hall assembled early for the results of the poll. They stamped their cold feet on the muddy, puddley ground and scowled at the hopeless sky that spread a light unpleasant drizzle. A little girl, doubtful of her right to stand on so important a site, cuddled up closely to a friendly shop window. An errand boy allowed his political ardour to overcome his sense of what is required of express deliveries. He was joined by a butcher's boy, with a liberal show of Conservative colours, who gave his willing assistance in doing nothing to their mutual satisfaction. 10 12 16d

1911 03 24

Gloucester Street child neglect – 11 03 24c

1911 04 21

At Cambridge Police Court three young men, whose names are too well known to the police, were charged with stealing a broom value one shilling from outside Frederick Friend's grocer's shop in Castle Street. They were each sentenced to seven days imprisonment and in addition two were fined for using obscene language and one sent to prison for a month for assaulting a policeman. The Mayor said one of them was a perfect pest to Castle End and it was beyond the comprehension of the magistrates to know what to do with him. It was a pity he could not get abroad. It was a thousand pities that a good-looking smart young man like him could not live a better life. 11 04 21b

1911 07 14

The Crystal Palace pub in Mill Road Cambridge was difficult to supervise, police reported. The only way to get to the back was down a narrow passage at the side, the door of which was always locked. The Bell in Northampton Street was in bad repair with terrible accommodation, the house was damp and the only cooking facilities were in an underground kitchen. 11 07 14

1911 10 13

Mr Moorhouse paid a second 'flying visit' to Cambridge. The footballers playing on Midsummer Common abandoned their game at once when the machine came into view over Castle Hill. The aeroplane looked as if it must come down among the crowd, but the airman managed the descent very

cleverly, and, travelling a short distance only a few feet from the ground, eventually alighted very smoothly rather less than a hundred yards from the railings on the Maid's Causeway side. On his ascent the machine rose gracefully and easily over the trees and the river. It quickly attained a height of nearly 1,000 feet before he made a circle over Chesterton and then sped off towards Huntingdon, He is an intrepid young man of whom more will doubtless be heard in the future 11 10 13b

1911 12 08

The Cambridge Chapter of the Order of World Scouts was inaugurated in St Giles church. It is intended to bind Scoutmasters and officers more closely together in their great work and ensure good men for the positions. Every member swears solemnly to obey the Scout Law. The Histon Troop of the British Boy Scouts was present as were a patrol of the Cambridge B-P Scouts. The order was inaugurated in the Chapel Royal Savoy by the Grand Scoutmaster, Sir Francis Vane when the Cambridge British Boy Scouts were represented. 11 12 08

1912 05 10

"New Tunes to Hymns, Ancient and Modern" is the title of a little collection composed by the Rev Richard Owen of St Giles' Vicarage and published by Mr A.J. Gillson of Cambridge. In these days of multitudinous hymnals, when every church, sect and connection has its own original compilation of hymn tunes, cribbed and purloined from each other, one seeks the reason for any fresh one. This one is intended for a practiced body of choir singers, the stanzas are unsymmetrical and the rhythm is unconventional. We cordially recommend it to the attention of up-to-date choirs. 12 05 10h

1912 05 17

Romsey Town residents presented a memorial containing 1,018 signatures suggesting the council should purchase a piece of land for use as a recreation ground. In March 1898 a committee had backed the idea and various efforts had been made to secure a suitable site without result. Romsey Town residents contributed to the upkeep of other open spaces and felt it was their turn to have one. It was too far for the young children and old folk to go to Parker's Piece. Meanwhile a public-spirited individual had offered to buy a piece of building land in Castle End to be kept open for perpetuity. 12 05 17b

1912 05 31

The need of a better playground for the children of St Giles' Infants School has long been felt and no real surprise was occasioned when the Board of Education insisted the youngsters cease to play in the ill-adapted yard adjoining the school and that a new ground should be provided. A piece of ground was purchased and made into an excellent playground, part of it being converted into a grass plot. It was officially opened by Lady Albinia Donaldson when the opportunity was also taken to celebrate Empire Day. 12 05 31e

1912 07 19

Scarlet fever outbreak statistics, started Castle End – 12 07 19b

1912 10 25

Alterations to Castle End Institute Mission Hall mean that rooms are now well ventilated, brilliantly lighted with incandescent gas and have hot water heating apparatus. Two classrooms have been fitted up as a billiard room with a reading cum smoke room and a games room upstairs. The mission had begun at Frost's Passage and Kettle's Yard Night School where they had to tell the boys that soap was cheap and water was cheaper. The first site had proved unsuitable so the present site with a tiny grocer's shop at the corner and some back-to-back cottages had been bought. Now it would meet the needs of the neighbourhood and make residents lives more beautiful 12 10 25c

1912 12 27

A verdict of accidental death was given at an inquest into the death of George Selwyn, only son of the former Master of Selwyn College. He had had a motor cycle for some time and was a rider of experience. George Hammond, a labourer, saw a motor bus coming down Castle Hill when a motor cycle came out of Northampton Street and collide with it. The bus driver said the first thing he knew

was when he felt the wheels bump over something. The lad had lost control and no blame was attached to the bus driver. He'd done all he could. 12 12 27a

1913 01 03

Gloucester St troublesome children

1913 01 10

Gloucester Street children troublesome – knock shutters

1913 01 24

Castle End Institute is carrying out splendid work in this thickly-populated area. There is a first-rate billiard room for men, with reading and games room upstairs; boys have a gymnasium and there are weekly sewing classes for girls. A pulpit will shortly be added to the mission room which presents very bright appearance after its redecoration.

1913 02 14

Cambridge licensing – pubs closed Crystal Palace in Mill Rd, Priory Tap Newmarket Road, Bell in Northampton St; are 250 licences, Star Brewery apply sell smaller quantities of beer from brewery 13 02 14

1913 02 07

Cambridge Advertising and Billposting Company report an extremely successful year even though there'd been no major events, such as a general election. They had hired a very fine new advertising station on Hills Road from the Great Eastern Railway which commanded the Cattle Market and had become very popular with advertisers. They'd also bought a site on Castle Hill commanding Histon and Huntingdon Roads where they'd erected a very substantial brick-built advertising station, one of the best in Cambridge 13 02 07 p5 CIP

1913 07 04 CIP

Castle End allotments & p9

1913 10 17

The appointment of a new teacher to St Peter's Boys School seemed like a put-up job, one councillor claimed. The first question on the application form was 'Can you play the piano or other musical instrument' but of those called for interview only one could play the organ and he was appointed. The Vicar had broken his holiday to be present. He'd met the successful candidate in London, took him to his house, took him to the meeting and got him appointed. He then took him over to see about the organ in St Giles' church. But they were not advertising for a man who could play the organ, they were wanting somebody who could manage the school. 13 10 17 p4 CIP

1913 10 24

Town council – dirty pavements, baths, Wallis Court Jesus lane cottages unfit, overcrowding Castle End, Trade Union demonstration Parker's Piece on Sunday opposed

1913 11 07

A Brampton man was hanged in Cambridge Gaol for the murder of his wife. Mr T.W. Pierpoint was the executioner and the hanging was expeditiously carried out, death being instantaneous. Very little interest in the execution was shown by the public. There was but a mere handful of people outside the Shire Hall, chiefly composed of errand boys and youths. The black flag was not hoisted nor was the prison bell tolled, and there was nothing whatever to indicate that anything unusual was taking place. 13 11 07

1913 11 07

List of other hangings

Hangings at Cambridge County Gaol & elsewhere

1801 03 William Grimshaw, house breaking  
1802 04 William Wright & John Bullock, arson  
1812 03 28 William Nightingale, alias Bird, forgery  
1812 08 08 Daniel Dawson, poisoning horse at Newmarket  
1816 06 28 John Dennis, Isaac Harley, Thomas Smith, William Beamiss & George Crow,  
Littleport riots, at Ely  
1817 John Scare, burglary Whittlesford  
1819 08 06 Thomas Weems, murdered wife Arrington  
1824 04 03 John Lane, rape  
1827 09 31 Joshua Slade, murder rector Stukely, at Huntingdon  
1829 James Bishop, sheep stealing, at Huntingdon  
1829 04 William Osborn, of Boxworth for highway robbery  
1830 04 03 William Reader, William Turner & David Howard, arson Linton  
1833 03 29 William Westnot & Charles Carter, attempted murder of gamekeeper  
1833 12 John Stallan, arson, Sawston  
1850 04 30 Elias Lucas & Mary Reeder, poisoning wife at Castle Camps  
1861 08 10 Augustus Hilton, murder wife at Parson Drove  
1864 03 11 John Green, murder of girl at Whittlesey, last public execution  
1876 12 14 Robert Browning, private execution  
1878 11 25 Henry Gilbert, murder of child at Hail Weston, at Huntingdon  
1898 06 Walter Horsford, St Neots poisoner  
1910 06 14 James Henry Hancock, murdered Alfred Doggett at Chesterton  
1913 11 02 Frederick Seekings, murdered wife at Brampton  
13 11 07 p8

1914 01 30

The old Primitive Methodist Chapel in St Peter's Street is now in the hands of the house-breaker and is fast disappearing, together with the adjoining cottages. From the ruins will rise new, handsome and commodious buildings. The old premises have been altogether inadequate and only a lack of funds have prevented the work starting earlier. Now work can be commenced and we are witnessing the passing of the old meeting house that for nearly 50 years has been the home of Primitive Methodism in this part of the town. It was used for the last time on Sunday week, when impressive farewell services were held. 14 01 30f pics of ext & int

1914 02 06

At the opening of the new County Hall in Hobson Street the chairman thanked the Town Council for allowing them to use their council chamber and committee rooms for the past 25 years. In 1747 the old Shire Hall had been built on Market Hill above arches where butchers had their stalls on market days. In 1842 this passed to the town when a new Shire Hall at Castle Hill was ready for occupation. But the enormous development of administrative business had now brought the County Council again into the centre to this new commodious and economical building, finally bringing together departments previously distributed in all parts of the town. 14 02 06, a-c

1914 05 29

Wonderful cycling feat - Wonderful (writes Freelance) is the energy of youth! A few days ago when cycling down past Magdalene College (Cambridge) I was overtaken by an undergraduate riding an ordinary bike. He had only one leg—the left one, which propelled the machine on which he rode. In his right hand he clutched his crutch, and at the same time steered a second push bicycle! This, too, up the Castle Hill, and a gale of wind blowing, and at the same time he almost exceeded the speed limit ! ! – 14 05 29 CIPof

1914 07 31

Castle Hill Methodist Sunday school opened 14 07 31

1914 12 25

Corp Frederick Potter, Northampton St, awarded DSM – profile, photo – 15 01 22b

1915 09 24

Runaway Horse killed, wall Sir Isaac Newton, Castle Hill

1916 04 12

'Their country's future defenders' – photo of lads with wooden swords in Castle Hill 1908 with names – 16 04 12b

1916 08 23

tribunal; includes: Co-operative Society; conscientious objectors; Whybro & Walker; Vinter coal merchants; Dog & Pheasant landlord; master of School House, Pound Hill; Ortona; Robert C Brown, oil & hardware; Scudamore boat maker; 16 08 23b

1917 03 07

Licenses of pubs transferred from men serving in forces to their wives; objections to Spotted Cow, Northampton Street & Jolly Butchers, Newmarket Road – 17 03 07b

1917 04 04

A Drastic Resolution. The following resolution has been passed by the Allotments Subcommittee for Newnham and Castle End: "That inasmuch as they have received 50 applications for allotments, which they are unable to satisfy, they beg to request the Town Council to break up the Lammas Land at Newnham without delay, viz., without waiting for formal authority from any higher authority". As a result the Borough Member is to be asked to interview the Authorities of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries with regard to the application of the committee for permission to use the Lammas Land and Empty Common for allotments.

1917 06 06

Lost In Mediterranean. Among those on board the British transport Transylvania, which was torpedoed in the Mediterranean on Many 4 were two Cambridge men, one of whom survived and the other was drowned. The latter was Private Ernest William Taylor of Brookside Cottage, Burnside, Cambridge, and the survivor is Private Edward Brown, of 5 North Terrace, Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, Another victim of the Transylvania was Sgt W. H. Norman, of the R.A.M.C. (the Rev. W. H. Norman, formerly superintendent of the Castle End Mission). Mr. M. Norman entered the Ministry some years ago, and was superintendent of the Castle End Mission for a good period. Shortly before the outbreak of war he accepted a call to the pastorate of a Glasgow Congregational Church, but he obtained leave from his church and joined the R.A.M.C., feeling that it was his duty. In this regiment he rapidly gained promotion. He had served in Ireland and France, and was going out to Egypt when his ship was torpedoed

1917 06 20

Death of Mr, Arthur Matthew. — The death occurred on Friday night of Mr. Arthur Matthew, head of the well-known firm of Messrs. Matthew and Son. It took place at his private resident, The Garden House, Mount Pleasant, Cambridge, where he had been lying seriously ill for some weeks. Mr. Matthew was elected to the Town Council in 1835 and in 1903 was made an alderman.

1917 07 18

Jolly Butchers in Newmarket Road, 'Magpie & Stump' Chesterton and 'Spotted Cow' Northampton Street to close – 17 07 18a

1917 07 18

Awarded Military Medal - Private F. Jones of 10, Shelley Row, Cambridge, a regimental stretcher bearer in the Norfolk Regiment, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty when attending to the wounded under very heavy fire during an attack east of Givenchy in September last. Private Jones, who is 21 years of age, enlisted in September 1914, and was for ten weeks in France and then in hospital in England for 15 weeks with frostbite. In March, 1915, he

returned to France, and he now lies in a Chester hospital with a poisoned leg and foot. Previous to enlisting, Pte. Jones was employed at a Norwich hotel.

1917 10 03

Serbian Colony, — An interesting reception, at which 100 people were present, was hold in Westminster College, Cambridge, on Saturday evening to celebrate the closing of the temporary Serbian colony at the college. This colony has been running for the past three months under the care of the Serbian Relief Fund, to enable students to pass a matriculation examination at a standard set by the Serbians, and which the British Universities had agreed shall take the place of Responsions and Little-go. Thirty Serbian students had taken part in the exam.

1918 10 09

Castle End roll of honour recently unveiled – 18 10 09c

1920 03 18

William Webb, Castle End, lost his arms but bore misfortune well, dies

1920 11 17

St Giles war memorial unveiling – photos – 20 11 17

1920 12 09

Castle End Mission memorial Mrs Whibley – had visited poor in Castle End, started school in Frost's Passage; 20 12 15a; photo – 20 12 22d

1921 03 23

Assize court figures of Law, Justice, Mercy & Power to be removed – 21 03 23f, 21 03 30e

1921 07 27

Langdon & Peet, builders, St Peter's Street – advertisement showing workers and factory – 21 07 27b

1921 10 26

Westminster College chapel dedicated – gift of Sir William Noble – 21 10 26f

1922 01 04

Assize Court figures of Law, Justice, Mercy & Power to remain, had been removed 22 01 04c

1923 08 07

A driver for the Taxi Side-car company was summoned for driving a motor cycle taxi cab in a dangerous manner in Castle Street, Cambridge. Walter Langford, labourer, spoke to seeing a taxi side-car coming down Castle Hill. At the crossing it dodged in front of a motor car, and the side-car caught the front of the motor car which struck the side of Messrs Clark's shop in Northampton Street. The motor car hit a man and knocked him down.

1925 01 19

A fire broke out in the Grand Jury Room at the Shire Hall which destroyed all the woodwork and furniture. It is a large room is situated at the front of the building on the Police Station side and contained a table and some chairs. A stairway leads from it to the grand jury gallery in the Crown Court and it was through the fire roaring up these stairs that damage was done to the court by smoke and steam.

1925 10 19

A comprehensive scheme for the provision of parking places in Cambridge will be laid before the Town Council who are empowered to authorise any part of a street as a parking place, though no charge can be made for parking cars in the public streets. Sites include Trumpington Street opposite the Leys School, Maids' Causeway, Lensfield Road, King Street & Jesus Lane. In Pound Hill it is proposed to allocate space for parking motor buses from St Neots and St Ives



1926 01 30

An unusual sight was seen in Cambridge when a hare at full tilt careered through our crowded streets from the direction of Huntingdon Road. Ignoring the police signal at Northampton Street 'pussy' tore along Bridge Street and through the crowded traffic towards Hills Road. When last seen the hare was still running. Some employers must have had a shock to see how fast their errand boys could travel when there was something to chase!

1926 05 28

Cambridge councillors heard that in 1912 a piece of land in Shelley Row, together with the house adjoining was given anonymously to the Corporation as a perpetual playground to the children of Castle End. It was assumed that the rent of the house would be available for the upkeep and improvement of the playground. £80 would be required to make a really satisfactory playground; it was resolved to spend £20 on putting the ground in order

1927 04 08

Under an Act of 1877 the Prison Commissioners took over Castle Hill, Cambridge, together with the prison from the County Justices. The prison itself has been loaned to the Record Office for the reposition of certain deeds etc. The hill could be visited by application at the old prison gates, but few availed themselves of this. Now the Cambridge Antiquarian Society suggested it be handed over to the Corporation as public open space

1927 07 26

Cambridge council considered the erection of advertising boards by the Empire Marketing Committee at Corn Exchange Street, Market Hill, Drummer Street, Butts Green, Northampton Street and the Cattle Market. But the path in Corn Exchange Street was only five feet wide and it would be dangerous if people stopped there to look at it. They would have to put up another sign, "Safety first. Passengers must not stop to look at this advertisement". (Laughter).

1927 11 03 c

A verdict of accidental death was returned at an inquest into a labourer from Tan Yard, Northampton Street, Cambridge who died as the result of injuries sustained in a motor accident. John Mayes, cinema attendant at the Tivoli Cinema said deceased was pulling a handcart; he was in the shafts on the river side of Chesterton Road. He saw the left wing of the car hit the cart and the man went right under the car. William Tams, a photographer, estimated the car's speed at about 25 miles an hour. PC Brown said he saw the handcart being used to lever the car up in order to lift it off the man. The boy said "Some --- fool ran into me; don't let mother know".

1927 11 12

Gloucester Street workshop for disabled soldiers in Cambridge, opened by Princess Mary last year, is represented at an exhibition at the Imperial Institute. Their stall contains all kinds of basketwork, knitting and other things made at the workshops. At present there are eight men working there. All are of over 60 per cent disability through the war, and one is of over 90 per cent. The workshop can never be a paying concern but good work is being done in enabling the men to earn sufficient money to keep them "off the dole". Colonel Willis, the secretary or Miss Brearley, manageress and instructress, would be pleased to see anyone interested.

1927 11 15

Two of the proudest men in Cambridge are Mr H.A. Hagger and Mr F.C. Fuller who were in charge of the stall of the Disabled Men's Workshop, Gloucester Street, at the Imperial Institute. It was the only stall attended by the actual men who made the goods and the contents were completely disposed of by mid-way through the week. The Queen bought a pair of heather-mixture socks and a waste paper basket. The Duchess of York bought a fancy rush stool remarking "It will do for Princess Elizabeth for the nursery". By the time the Prince of Wales visited they had nothing left to sell him.

1928 01 02

The Home Secretary has decided to discontinue the Cambridge prison on Castle Hill and has offered it to the County Council for £4,812. The buildings consist of a central block comprising laundry, workshop, kitchen, labour cells, ladder store, hospital, photographers' hut, execution shed, schoolroom and governor's house. The Office of Works wishes to lease the main buildings to store their records in. This would not prevent the council in the future from building a new county hall on the prison site.

1928 01 23

An interesting discussion in regard to the future of Cambridge Prison and the Castle Mound took place at a meeting of the County Council. The Home Secretary would convey it to them for £4,812. The County did not want the mound, which was more closely connected with Cambridge than the rest of the county. All persons interested, including the Borough Council and the Cambridge Antiquarian Society would be consulted when its future was settled. Something was also said about the possibility of removing the County Hall in Hobson Street to the Shire Hall site.

1928 04 28

Less than 20 years ago I was doing journalistic work in a Hobson Street office. In those days there was no County Hall opposite, nor talk of one. It was begun only 15 years ago and if anyone had been asked how long it would remain the County Council headquarters he might have answered 'A hundred years at least'. But so great has been the extra work thrown on the Council that already the building has been outgrown and plans are now to be prepared for a new building on the Castle Hill site. There are now 86 officials and ratepayers may ask if such an army of officers are really necessary

1928 06 11

There are now 12 men on the books of the Cambridge Disabled Soldiers Workshop in Gloucester Street. Three have had the right arm amputated, seven the leg and of the remaining two one suffered from the effects of gassing and injuries to the head and the other from severe injuries to the abdomen. Half were employed up to the 48-hour week and the maximum wage was 36s a week to the foreman. In addition to the basket and rush work and wool knitting they were developing the knitting of silk stockings, jumpers and ties, the re-upholstering of chairs and the making and renovating of mattresses

1928 08 14

Cambridge has lost a popular and familiar figure by the death of Mr James 'Jessie' Collins. He had an intimate knowledge of the antecedents and lives of almost every one of the inhabitants of 'The Boro' – the Castle End district - and was a character quite of his own. For 40 years he was employed at St John's College, rising from the position of shoe black to deputy head porter. He will be buried from St John's College, which he has served so faithfully and so long and today he lies in state in the college chapel – a fitting end to a remarkable life

1929 01 28

Certain documents of an historical nature are stored in Cambridge prison on Castle Hill and access is permitted to University students for the purpose of study. But if a County Hall is built on the site the Prison will be pulled down and the documents removed. The University fears that they would lose a very big educational factor and urge the County Council to provide accommodation for them in their new building. Having regard to the tendency of modern legislation to give Councils more work they would probably require considerably more accommodation at the end of 20 years and such storage would then be valuable for administrative purposes.

1929 02 05

The latest form of political propaganda, the Conservative's touring 'Talkifilm' is visiting Cambridge. The programme includes a speech by the Prime Minister which gives an uncanny effect of realism and a silent film showing the opening up of Canada. The van will visit Pound Hill, the Premier Hall Chesterton and Occupation Road, winding up at Cherry Hinton Road corner

1929 03 22

Cambridge council is to introduce automatic traffic signals at the crossroads at Northampton Street and Chesterton Lane for a three-month trial. The present cost of a policeman on point duty was about £400 a year and the signals, with purchase, would be about £200 with about £25 a year maintenance and repairs. But Coun Stubbs described it as “robot policemen”; a friend in Liverpool had had to wait ten minutes with a clear road before he could get a move on. He did not see how traffic could be controlled as well as by human means: “I can see myself telling it to mind its own business” (Laughter). It was at the wrong place, being at the bottom of a steep hill; it would be better at the East Road – Mill Road crossing.

1929 04 13

Shire Hall courts debate – CDN 13.4.29

1929 10 29

The Government Office of Works have made arrangements for the records at present stored in the old Prison on Castle Hill, to be removed from Cambridge to another disused gaol. It is their policy to concentrate such records at Canterbury. The Governor’s House at the old Prison will be adapted to provide temporary accommodation for county council staff and rooms in the prison gatehouse used for storage purposes. This has released accommodation at the County Hall for other departments

1930 04 07

The new electric traffic signals are generally working well but it seems that the average motorist accelerates when the green light is showing in order to get through before it changes. This is particularly evident at the Northampton Street – Castle Hill crossing in Cambridge as a driver going towards Huntingdon seeing a stiff climb directly ahead naturally tries to get through and up the hill. But a driver coming down often finds his car has a tendency to accelerate of its own and tries to get into Chesterton Lane a little too fast, swinging out into the standard erected in the centre of the road. 30 04 07

1930 06 20

The old county gaol at Castle Hill was opened to the public. Since 1916 when it was closed because of a scarcity of prisoners – it has been said there were not enough to keep the place clean – the prison has only been used for Government record purposes. Then it changed hands and became the property of the County Council; a writer to the CDN threw out the suggestion that it should be opened for public visitation, and the scheme became an actuality. 30 06 20a

1930 06 20

Maids in their scanty summer frocks, flannelled youths, mothers and fathers and grandfathers queued for admission to the County Gaol on Cambridge Castle Hill. The execution shed was a popular rendezvous along with the condemned cell, the burial ground and padded cell. People searched for links with the past. They found few. The gaol is not what it was. Dirt and rust have replaced whitewashed walls and polished steelwork and certain parts have become dilapidated. 30 06 20a

1930 06 21

Well over 700 people visited the Cambridge County Gaol; it is a dingy old place and looks a good deal the worse for wear. Most were surprised at the size of the prison and had no idea that such extensive accommodation was provided. Having explored the interior the majority couldn’t resist the fascination of a visit to the execution shed just outside. 30 06 21b

1930 07 12

General regulations affecting the use of motor vehicles first-year men are already in force but in view of the numerous road fatalities last term much more stringent bans will be in operation next year. Clare College says that the possession of motor cars and motor bicycles prevent undergraduates from making the best use of their residence in Cambridge and none of its students will be allowed to bring

or drive a motor vehicle. Cars must be kept in a public garage or in one of the college garages on Castle Hill. 30 07 12a

1930 08 30

The opportunity of seeing the execution gallows and other grim items offered for sale by auction at the old County Gaol, Castle Hill, will doubtless attract a big crowd. As well as the gallows will be sold cell doors, the iron gallery railing, iron window grilles, stone steps and other component parts which went to make up a place whose passing will be lamented by none. 30 08 30e

1930 09 02

A white-coated auctioneer started the piece-meal destruction of the old Cambridge County Gaol. Bidding was brisk as lot after lot was sold. Then came the execution gallows but there were few bids and it was eventually sold for one pound. The prison clock went for the sum of £5 amid the mutterings of buyers on the debris-laden floor. 30 09 02a-c

1930 09 03

Another example of the 'new Cambridge' in the making is the extensive site on which Magdalene College intends erecting an imposing new wing. It is at the rear of the Pickerel and Cross Keys yards originally occupied by Bird's vinegar and mustard factory. Mallory Court will provide the principal access but eventually a complete transformation will be effected by the demolition of all the property between the bridge and Northampton Street making Magdalene Street a broad and handsome thoroughfare. 30 09 03c

1930 09 27

The Cambridge Disabled Soldiers Workshop in Gloucester Street has made a trading profit for the first time since it opened four years ago. Four of the nine men had returned to their villages for better pay after receiving training in repairs to cane and rush work. They made good quality baskets for laundry and bottles as well as remaking mattresses. Manufactured goods were sold at local fetes and the Exhibition at the Imperial Institute when £300 worth of sales was realised. But the net loss on the running of the institution was £141. 30 09 27b

1931 03 13

Hudson's brewery had closed six public houses in Cambridge: the Brewery Tap in Bridge Street, the White Swan and Prince Albert in Castle Street, the Beehive on Honey Hill, Spotted Cow in Northampton Street and Golden Fleece in Ram Yard. But they wanted to renew the licence for the Baron of Beef. The application was supported by a petition from the Sick Benefit Society and was granted. Also Cow & Calf & Crown & Sceptre. 31 03 13f

1931 07 24

Shire Hall demolition picture – 31 07 24f

1932 02 25

Apart from the large hall and council chamber the Cambridge Guildhall is worn out and absolutely unsuitable. The accommodation in every department was deplorable – dark, dismal, horrid, unlit and unhealthy. On Castle Hill there was a fine new building being erected for the County Council who were planning to spend £8,000 on furnishing alone. Never since the war had prices in the building trade been lower; this was the right moment to consider rebuilding, councillors were told. 32 02 25 & 25a

1932 05 23

Cambridgeshire Insurance Committee considered moving to the new County Hall, Castle Hill. It was a very fine situation but what sane business man having a base in the centre would go a mile out of town to a place scarcely anybody knew - even though there was a free motor park. But future development would be on the north of Cambridge as the County had offered a very large acreage of land between Histon railway station and the old Chesterton village. 32 05 23 & a

1932 07 15

The new Shire Hall was opened with little ceremony in the presence of a handful of people. The Architect (H.H. Dunn) presented the Chairman, Ald W.C. Jackson, with a gold-covered key engraved with the County Arms with which he unlocked the door. Soon a stream of guest arrived and the corridors presented a most animated appearance. The council chamber is very similar to that at the old County Hall in Hobson Street from which all the seats and tables have been removed while every care has been taken to provide the maximum air, light and spaciousness to the offices. 32 07 15e & f

1932 07 15

The visit of Her Majesty, Queen Mary, was kept a close secret and her car was temporarily held up near Northampton Street traffic lights. But the news quickly spread. Later she visited the Fitzwilliam Museum where she consented to be photograph under the picture of Cambridge that she had presented. 32 07 15g

1933 03 07

Bus crashes wall St Giles church – 33 03 07

1933 07 15

The centenary of the Oxford Movement was celebrated at St Giles' church when the congregation was exceptionally large. Prof Wynne regretted the tendency of the Church to be manned with old men. It was the younger man who saw visions and who must carry on the work. These days a mass attack was being made upon Christianity, the world was growing increasingly evil. The English Church Union and the Anglo-Catholic Congress should work together. 33 07 15 p6

1933 07 31

The old County Hall in Hobson Street was supposed to be sold with the proceeds being used to pay for the new Shire Hall on Castle Hill. But now little tin advertising 'To Let' signs had appeared and there didn't seem to be the slightest attempt to sell it, a councillor complained. But every effort had been made to dispose of it without success and they were now hoping to let a portion to the Government's Office of Works which would suit the council equally as well as a sale. 33 07 31

1933 09 01

St Giles church has been damaged because of the exceptionally dry weather. A crack was seen at the east end and the wall showed a tendency to fall away from the rest of the church. There is no immediate danger, though a wooden frame will be placed around the top of the arches of the windows as a precaution but it was thought advisable to move the altar. Now the east end will probably have to be underpinned. 33 09 01

1933 09 12

Anderson (Andy) Broom was keenly interested from a boy in amateur photography and became the first Press photographer in Cambridge, having been for 20 years on the staff of the Cambridge Chronicle. Before that he worked for 37 years with the firm of Flavell and Ellis, decorators. He was member of St Giles' parish dramatic society and an athlete, chiefly engaged in cycling and skating. 33 09 12

1933 09 14

Sir – in my old curiosity shop in Trumpington Street I have formed a museum of prison, punishment and other interesting relics, many of which have come from our old Cambridge prisons. They include the clothes, mask, pistol and spurs of Dick Turpin which were left at the Three Tuns Inn, Castle Hill, on the eve of January 12th 1739. I would welcome any items connected with village punishment or an old police uniform with the beaver top hat – E. Rutter. 33 09 14

1934 01 30

Three Tuns public house plans, White Swan to close – 34 01 30



1934 03 10

The last bus he drove formed part of the funeral cortege for John Reed of Shelley Row. He had been with the Ortona and Eastern Counties' companies for 22 years and as a last tribute a large contingent of his fellow workers headed the procession to St Giles' cemetery. The bearers were drivers W. Fowler, J. Hawkes and A. Morley with conductors L. Scarr, S. Scarr and S. Ashman. 34 03 10

1934 03 28

Magistrates approved the transfer of a licence from the old Three Tuns on Castle Hill to a new County Arms nearby. There would be increased facilities for meals to cater for the new County Hall opposite. But the proprietor of Ye Olde Castle Tea Rooms and the Castle Inn objected. None of the county council staff came in and there was no trade in the winter. The neighbourhood was decreasing and it would have an effect on their businesses. 34 03 28

1934 10 31

Rotarians backed plans for the establishment of a Cambridge folk museum where objects of historic interest could be preserved for future generations. The growth of centralised industry was flooding the countryside with machine-made goods superseding those produced locally. There were many toys such as hoops, whip-tops, marbles and bar-and-trap which were being discarded that should find a place there, Coun. E.S. Peck said. 34 10 31

1935 01 10

Who can claim the greatest number of living descendants? J. Haynes of Thoday Street says: "I am 80 and have eight children living. There are 37 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. My eldest daughter is 39 and the youngest great grandchild 14". Miss K. Brand of Gloucester Street says "My grandmother (87) has had 12 children; there are 62 grandchildren, 62 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. 35 01 10

1935 05 13

The number employed by the Disabled Persons Workshop has varied from 9 to 10; two are doing piece work in their homes, not being able to attend at the shop. Unfortunately three who are employed are not eligible for the deficiency grants from the Ministry of Labour which has hit the income. It has been a disturbed year owing to the difficulty of finding suitable premises in Cambridge for a shop. The workshops in Gloucester Street are out of the way and they had to leave Peas Hill because of demolitions, meaning there was nowhere to sell their goods. The new premises in Trumpington Street are outside the shopping centre and the rents and rates are a strain 35 05 13

1935 09 12

The White Horse Inn at the foot of Castle Hill is a 15th-century building surrounded with mystery. Between the two chimney stacks is said to exist a small secret room once used by Royalists as a hiding place from their enemies. The entrance was probably by way of the chimney but as the wide fireplaces have been bricked up there is no means of ascertaining whether there were iron rungs on one side. But inside a cupboard on the first floor landing is an iron door built a few years ago to enable a sweep to enter. The mystery may be solved if and when the building is demolished, as it may be in the near future for road widening purposes. 35 09 12a

1935 10 26

The Three Tuns public house at Castle Hill was a picturesque building and there were too few of that sort remaining. Dick Turpin was supposed to have stayed there at one time, but that was purely legendary. Mr Northfield had restored it some years ago so as to make people think it was really an ancient building but it had just been painted to look like a half-timbered house. It was not fit for human habitation and the Cambridge Preservation Society could not appeal for its retention 35 10 26a

1935 10 28



A folk museum may be established in the old White Horse Inn following a meeting called by Cambridge Rotary Club. It should be a town and county museum for objects of local interest. Dr Palmer offered some of the items which had accumulated in the attic of a house where his ancestors had lived for 300 years. This was only the beginning: the ideal folk museum should be in the open, a space in which old cottages, smithies, a windmill and other things could be shown. 35 10 28 & a

1935 12 16

Sir – the de-population of Castle End has brought a serious decline in trade in this district. Slum clearance has seen the departure of many young families to the new residential estates in other parts of Cambridge and we are left with the old people whose requirements are practically nil. When a house is vacant it is condemned and pulled down so consequently no new residents come to take their place. Some sites have been empty for years and are growing a plentiful supply of weeds and thistles. When are we going to have new houses built on these vacant sites – Tradesman 35 12 16

1936 09 23

The new Folk Museum which is to be opened in Cambridge shortly will not be filled with glass cases containing stuffed birds. The rooms will be authentically furnished – one visitor to the bar-parlour even asked for a pint of bitter. It was unfortunate that the front of the old White Horse Inn had been modernised 25 years ago, but interesting old beams were revealed after the interior walls had been stripped of many layers of paper. A modern fireplace had been removed and electricity installed. They now need everyday objects, craftsmen's tools, toys and an old smock, Mr Saville Peck told Rotarians. 36 09 23

1936 11 04

The Cambridge and County Folk Museum at the old 'White Horse Inn' was opened in the presence of a large company. It would become a clearing house of information on local matters in a town where there is more information about Papua than Pampisford. The Corporation had handed over its old measures, the steelyard used at Stourbridge Fair and the High Constable's stave while the Public Library had loaned portraits and caricatures to give a human touch to the museum. Miss Catherine Parsons has accepted the position of honorary curator with Reginald Lambeth as custodian. 36 11 04b & c

1937 01 30

Folk Museum disappointed about lack of interest – description – 37 01 30

1937 06 18

The Tyre Service Company claims to be one of the oldest tyre firms in Britain. Commencing in Norfolk in 1902 it moved to Cambridge in 1919 and carried on business at Pound Hill and Jesus Lane. Through constant expanding business they have transferred to more extensive premises in Burleigh Street where they carry the largest and most comprehensive stock of motor tyres in the Eastern Counties, including a full range of Dunlop, Goodyear, Indian, Firestone and all leading makes 37 06 18

1937 07 07

Cambridgeshire County Council held their first meeting at the new administrative buildings on the Castle site when the recommendation that it be called 'Shire Hall' was adopted without discussion. It was admirably suited to its purpose without any frills and decorations. But Councillor Fordham regretted the purchase of two Turkey carpets for the councillors' room at cost of £37. 32 07 29a & b  
Aerial photo centred over Shire Hall – 37 07 07

1937 12 21

Sir — in Cambridge we have a council which is over-ridden by an irresponsible official whose knowledge of local conditions is nil. Some councillors did oppose the removal of the pedestrian refuges at the junction of Northampton Street and Chesterton Lane but they meekly submitted and gave way to the arrogance of the dictator. It was said that large vehicles could not get round the corners and that the lamp post had been knocked down 'scores of times'. But if certain transport

companies have their way it will be necessary to remove St Giles' church and part of Magdalene College! - George Hall. 37 12 21

1938 01 19

St Giles church stained glass window unveiled in memory Bishop Charles Gore – 38 01 19

1938 03 19

Mount Pleasant folk have had an interesting time seeing a modern workshop and showroom built on a corner site at Huntingdon Road without spoiling the beauty of an old house. Part of the ground below road level at the rear has been made full use of by having a sunk workshop built upon it with steel runners over the lower floor. This does away with the old idea of a car having to be run over a dark pit, when one can neither see to work well or do a job well. Dan Morley, well-known in the motor trade, had got this business going in less than four months. 38 03 19

1938 08 03

A car owned by Mr J.E. Bidwell of Gt Shelford and driven by his chauffeur was proceeding down Castle Hill when the front nearside wheel came off. The wheel collided with Alexander McFarlane, of no fixed abode, who was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital with leg and hand injuries. He was treated and taken to the Poor Law Institution. After the wheel had become detached from the car, the vehicle was stopped without further damage being done 38 08 03

1938 08 18

Queen Mary visits Folk Museum – 38 08 18

1938 09 07

New police houses, garages and recreation room at Shire Hall – 38 09 07

1938 10 22

Racing pigeon registered 1920 found in chimney of house in Castle Row – 38 10 22b

1939 01 02

Sir – During the last snowfall some bridges were a sheet of ice for a whole week and Garrett Hostel Bridge and Walk were never touched. Neither was any clearing done on Mount Pleasant, one of the most dangerous parts of Cambridge. More lorries are needed to cart away the snow which could be dumped on the Commons, rather than taking it miles to the river. And the by-laws should be enforced – residents in Portugal Street turned out to clear the snow but one of the worst lengths of pavement in Castle Street was in front of the Shire Hall. The unemployed or people receiving public assistance should be utilised 39 01 02

1939 02 28

Folk Museum's progress, Catherine Parsons honorary curator – 39 02 28

1939 03 04

Tuberculosis work as been carried on in Camden Place for 25 years. Now the old dispensary is being demolished with a new clinic adjoining Shire Hall, Castle Hill opened by Prof Ryle. It is equipped with an X-ray apparatus of the highest quality with a skilled radiologist in charge of it. Now the death rate from tuberculosis in Cambridgeshire was one of the lowest. The new dental caravan was also on display 39 03 04a

1939 11 21

The last Georgian bow-fronted shop window in Cambridge was at 45 Bridge Street It was saved from demolition and re-erected in the yard of the Cambridge Folk Museum by Mr E.C. Lambeth, assistant curator. It is thought that the shop was Ald Nutting's coffee house attached to the old Red Lion Inn in Bridge Street 39 11 21c

1940 05 07

Ambulance protest against condition of traffic lights at Castle Hill junction – sun light means cannot see what colour they are; several accidents – 40 05 07

1940 06 05

St Giles church railings removed – photo – 40 06 05

1941 05 14

Assize Courts railings to be removed – 41 05 14

1942 02 06

Folk museum large attendance on ‘free days’ – 42 02 06b

1942 05 08

Airman Saves Child. — Prompt action on Sunday by an R.A.F. man saved the life of Janet Chapman, aged 2½, of 3 Gloucester Street, Cambridge. She was in a pram in charge of her elder brother near Quayside when it started to run down some steps and the child was thrown out of the pram into the river. Maurice Frederick Buy, the airman, dived fully clothed into the river, rescuing the child. After treatment she was allowed to go home.

1945 06 13

Folk Museum new home – Lord Fairhaven offers Abbey House in recognition of VE Day – 45 06 13  
Abbey House – historical facts by F.A. Keynes – 45 06 15

1945 07 13

Waterworks booster station, Castle Hill opened to boost supplies to north Cambridge – 45 07 13

1945 08

VJ Parties – Gloucester St, Castle St – 45 09 10

1946 03 07

Folk Museum raises funds to accept Lord Fairhaven offer of Abbey House – 46 03 07

1946 10 05

If atom bomb dropped over Perse School it would damage all houses between Homerton College and Castle Hill, Newham and Gas Works; soon anybody will be able to manufacture it in back garden – 46 10 05

1948 03 10

An accident at the junction of Madingley Road, Queen’s Road and Northampton Street, Cambridge between an American 2½ ton lorry and an articulated lorry was so violent that it took nearly 2½ hours to part the two vehicles. A heavy lorry driver said he was coming to the junction from Queens' Road an American vehicle coming from the opposite direction of Northampton Street collided with his lorry, knocking it across the road. Witnesses told the court it had taken 2½ hours to part the lorries. Various methods were tried including an American crane pulling one way and a 3½ ton lorry another, using an electric welder, but in the end the trailer of the articulated lorry had to be taken off and the two vehicles prised apart

1948 10 18

Cambridge Town Council considered an application from Messrs Chivers and sons to use a site on Pound Hill as a milk pasteurisation and bottling centre. They had been encouraged to settle there by a former Medical Officer of Health perturbed about the condition of milk handling and distribution in Cambridge. But Councillor James thought the site was not a suitable place for a factory. Councillor Peel thought the vicinity should be kept for building small houses in scale with the old houses nearby and with the little old church of St Peter

1949 04 18

A police radio network covering Cambridgeshire, the Isle of Ely, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough has come into operation. Now within a few minutes of any incident being reported the nearest cruising police cars can be speeding to the spot. Radio will help greatly in car theft cases, enabling descriptions of missing vehicles to be circulated in a few seconds over a wide area. The Fire Brigade is also in the scheme. The master station through which the whole scheme is controlled is situated at County Police Headquarters, Castle Hill, Cambridge.

1950 05 05 c

A large white cob swan walked up Cambridge Castle Hill and found himself for 15 minutes the focus of much interest from the police, the press, two cats and the borough pindar. He first attracted attention waddling up the hill in the middle of the road – much to the consternation of drivers and cyclists. Oblivious to the hazards of walking in the middle of a Cambridge street, he took a look through the Shire Hall's entrance, but after a critical appraisal of the building he decided to continue his journey. It was then shepherded into the county police station yard where it stood and glared at everything that moved. Two inquisitive ginger cats approached, sniffing at the strange interloper, but they did not stay long. Neck arched, wings beating and hissing the big bird chased them away.

1950 10 21

Cambridge councillors decided not to take over Abbey House and assume responsibility for its future after the Folk Museum had raised £2,000 to effect the transfer of the Museum there from the old White Horse Inn. The house contains some very fine rooms suitable for display of exhibits but would mean they had to rehouse the families now living there. There was no doubt that in ordinary time the council would have been able to take the Museum over but it could not take on anything at the present time because they are so hard up.

1951 05 23

Cambridgeshire can now boast one of the finest rural domestic economy kitchens in the country. Until recently the R.D.E. instructress (Miss M. Constantine) was housed in a basement in Hills Road, but this was damp and subject to flooding; consequently the equipment was liable to go rusty. The new kitchen is tucked away in the grounds of the Shire Hall. It has every kind of cooking stove – electricity, gas, calor gas, oil and solid fuel and boasts a demonstration oven with a glass door. A “frig” is to come later.

1952 03 01

Councillor Stewart Todd Bull has been nominated as the next mayor of Cambridge. He is the owner of the well-known firm of dairy farmers, Messrs J.M. Bull & son. When Cambridge was attacked by enemy aircraft in 1941 he was amongst those in Hills Road who were bombed out. He is a man endued with the spirit of public service and after helping to look after the affairs of the city he frequently climbs Castle Hill to keep a watchful eye on the County Council.

1952 04 26

Canon W.W. Partridge is retiring from the living of St Luke's church, Cambridge, of which he has been vicar since 1916. He was also for two years chaplain at the prison on Castle Hill, which was demolished to make way for the new Shire Hall. The vicarage, which was built in 1923, was the first house erected on the large estate which now stretches away behind his church.

1952 05 03

The Foreign Secretary, Mr Anthony Eden opened the Anglo-U.S.A. and Allied services Club on Castle Hill, Cambridge. A year ago the city council was approached by the Women's Voluntary Service with the object of providing the site for the club. Since then much work had been done by the W.V.S. together with valuable assistance of the U.S. Air Force and the Air Ministry. The club will be open every evening during the week and, Mr Eden said, will lure out American Service men from the attractions of their camps so they could learn “what extraordinary animals the English are”

1952 05 21

Just before six o'clock this morning Mr Frank Webster was in bed in a room above his shop in Magdalene Street, Cambridge when he heard a terrific bang. A six-tonner lorry loaded with 15 tons of wheat had crashed into the shop at the corner of Northampton Street, ploughed through the wall and ended up with its front wheels where the counter used to be. It had swerved to avoid another lorry which also crashed into the shop. Between them the vehicles made the place look as if it had received a direct hit from a bomb

1952 06 12

With all the familiar colour and dignity of a royal occasion, the date of the Queen's coronation – June 2nd next year – was proclaimed today to the people of the city and county of Cambridge. It was a happy coincidence that it should mark a fitting and optimistic finale to the gay and glittering story of the May Week celebrations. A girl still in her May Ball gown and cloak was amongst a crowd of people outside the Shire Hall courts when the High Sheriff, following a fanfare, read the ancient proclamation. On the Market Square a crowd several hundred strong was silent when the Town Clerk began to read but his voice was all but lost in the howl from jet planes speeding overhead.

1952 07 21

The whole of the structure of the 112-year-old courts of assize at the old Shire Hall, Castle Hill, is unsafe and liable to collapse at any time. Dry rot has been attacking the floors and has now spread up the walls and plaster and into the roof. The damage is said to be irreparable and it is virtually certain that the County Council will have to write off the building as a total loss. The Court House, built of brick and stone in the Italian style has a portico supported on columns and comprises two courts and a magistrates' room from which three prisoners recently escaped by removing an iron grill over a window.

1952 07 28

One of the first judges to sit in the Shire Hall Courts, built between 1814 and 1844, Mr Justice Parke, complained about the ventilation in the Crown court. Bad ventilation is one of the factors that cause dry rot and it is possible that it has taken 107 years to come to the present condition. It could be smelt very plainly and if a knife was stuck into the wood it would go in up to the hilt in most places. It was unfortunate that they had decorated the building three years ago at considerable expense and no one knew about it. Coun. Dr Woodman said: "I hope the committee will consider the dry rot in the minds of the jury as well as in the walls of the court. You are packed like peas in a pod and with bad ventilation you get one thought".

1952 08 09

The news that the roof and interior of the Shire Hall Courts on Castle Hill, Cambridge are in danger of collapse has drawn attention to the statues on top of the building. The figures represent Law – holding a book, Justice – drawn sword (scales are missing), Mercy and – holding chain – Power

1952 12 02 c

Cambridge Council will start negotiations for the purchase of sites in Northampton Street to build cottages for old people. The Cambridge Preservation Society has offered £100 towards the cost of each dwelling on condition that the cottages in Kettle' Yard are kept in being and modernised. Because of the urgent need in Chesterton for more cottages for old people's use the Housing Committee are to consider buying land on the Scotland Farm Site.

1952 12 05

Cambridge City Council are objecting to the County Council's proposal to demolish the Shire Hall courts at present suffering from dry rot; their consent is needed as the building is scheduled as of special architectural or historic interest. Ald Wilding thought it was hardly necessary to demolish the building just because of some defects in the woodwork & Ald Taylor put forward a plan for preserving its very fine façade, but Coun George Edwards said the best thing would be to demolish it and have a new building erected in its place.

1953 01 21

Cambridge city council have asked the County not to demolish the old Assize Courts which are at present closed because of dry rot. As it is a building of special architectural interest further consideration should be given to its preservation. Dry rot does not necessarily involve the demolition of the whole structure of an affected building – none of the Colleges have had to demolish their buildings, though many of them have been affected from time to time. But the County says there is no assurance that further infection could be prevented. They intend to re-erect the façade of the building elsewhere

1953 03 02

“Why not let the façade of the Assize Courts on Castle Hill be used as a ‘Marble Arch’ for the new Spine Relief Road” asked the Mayor of Cambridge during discussions on its removal. The City Council had been very concerned about its preservation but to dismantle and remake it would cost £12,000 and architects said it could not be placed on the new building. It was a secondary monument and not old enough to be preserved, being built in 1840. But the stone figures on the roof were to be saved.

1953 04 13

The Cambridgeshire Divisional Magistrates Court sat for the last time in the old Shire Hall Courts, where justice has been meted out for over 100 years. It is just over eight months since it was found that the building was infested with dry rot and since then all courts, save the County Bench, have been accommodated in the Guildhall. Since then there have been many arguments in the County Council Chamber but the only solution they could find was that the building would have to be demolished.

1953 04 25

Does anybody want the façade of the Old Shire Hall, which is being demolished? The County Council has asked the City Council if they would like it, but the reply is ‘No, thank you’. It will be interesting to see if the County offers it elsewhere. Erection of new street lighting on the main roads is proceeding apace and is to be extended to Queen’s Road, better known as ‘The Backs’. This new lighting should add to the attractiveness of this famous beauty spot.

1953 04 29

On May 2nd the W.V.S. Anglo-American Service Club on Castle Hill, Cambridge, will be one year old. Activities include two dances a week; there are now 125 lady members who serve as dance hostesses and a waiting list has been opened for further applicants. Tours are arranged for all the American bases and there is a monthly party for convalescent patients from Wimpole Park Hospital and occasional teas for parties from Ely R.A.F. Hospital.

1953 06 10

Sir – the Shire Hall assize courts were closed on my order in July last year because the structure had become dangerous. Dry rot had been rampant for at least 50 years and the improvised repairs had done nothing to eliminate it. During the work of demolition fragments of newspapers dated 1922 and 1925 have been found that were left by workmen repairing the dry rot in those days. The council had to decide whether to save the bare walls of the old building and rebuild the roof and the whole of the interior, or to demolish it. The extent of the damage is now clearly revealed and confirms the necessity of demolition – Wilfrid Wingate, County Architect.

1953 11 02

The new Shire Hall court will not be an ‘extravagant’ but ‘a fine utility’ building, councillors were assured. They did not want panelling in every room and expensive carpets on the floor. Some wanted to build the new Court with an open frontage to the street, but it could not be done, as the site was not big enough. If they pulled down the existing police station and played ‘Old Harry’ it might be possible but on one side is the Castle Mound and there would be trouble galore they interfered with this.



1953 12 31

"There are cities with rotten cores and bad outsides and Cambridge is in danger of that" said the Vice Chancellor of the University and Chairman of the Preservation Society adding: "I would not be averse to a certain number of four-storey flats rather than development spreading further and further out". Cambridge was probably the only town in England which was now more beautiful than 30 years ago. But in Northampton Street was a 'horrid desert' only adorned by a small brick-built convenience; now the land has been acquired for 19 old people's cottages in a delightful architectural scheme.

1954 03 01

County councillors voted to proceed with their original plan for the new Shire Hall courts building. They also need to get their Town Planning people transferred from Hobson Street and must have further accommodation for the County Library, which is one of the finest – if not the finest – in England. Suggestions for putting another floor on the present Shire Hall would never be satisfactory. Services would be upset for about two years, the whole of the heating apparatus would have to be altered and it would cost nearly £70,000. There were plans for the basement to be used as offices but to put clerks down there would be like putting them in prison.

1954 03 15

A labourer who figured in a daring escape from the cells beneath Cambridge Shire Hall courts two years ago was arrested in London. He made his escape with two other men sentenced for housebreaking. In their getaway from the Shire Hall Courts – since demolished – the men forced up a grating weighing about one-and-a-half hundredweight in a nine-feet high ceiling near the detention room in which they had been placed pending their removal to Bedford Prison. Through this they climbed into the yard outside. The grating was not cemented down but its great weight and height above the floor made the lifting of it a considerable feat.

1954 07 17

There were strong protests at plans for new offices at Shire Hall Cambridge. The new building would contain Assize and Quarter Sessions courts, offices and accommodation for the County Library. The courts at Linton, Caxton, Melbourn and Bottisham were 'shockers', housed in old police stations and the magistrates would be only too happy to do their work in an up-to-date building. Architects had strongly advised against cheese-pairing costs of the assembly hall: Cambridge's lovely college buildings had been the best and had stood the test of time and the costs of labour and materials were rising. But a new plan for one-tier local government might mean the doom of County Councils and the scheme should be deferred.

1954 07 31

Cambridge city council attacked the County Council's cavalier attitude over their grandiose scheme for the replacement of the demolished Shire Hall Courts on Castle Hill. They can no longer tolerate the attitude of a powerful section of the County Council who seem bent on pursuing their own course with all the insensibility of a bureaucratic bulldozer. The Government has indicated it is likely to introduce Local Government reform and it is foolhardy to proceed with a scheme for more office accommodation when certain functions might transfer to the City Council and thus make the extra offices unnecessary. City residents provide 75 per cent of the county rate and should have a fair say in any such scheme.

1954 11 01

The old Shire Hall Assize courts no longer existed; it had been pulled down. That could not be altered; it was down and a new one had to be built, councillors were told. The Judges appreciate the temporary accommodation but occasionally inquire when the Assizes are expected to be held once more in the re-built Courts; they might get tired of waiting for them. We did not want to lose Cambridge as an Assize town. A proposal to defer their erection for two years was withdrawn but tenders will not be submitted for a year.

1955 03 19

Three cottages in Gloucester Street have been purchased by the County Council who will demolish them to facilitate access to the land at the rear of Shire Hall. The cottages would shortly come outside the control of the Rents Act and they wanted to obtain possession. Until ready to start the proposed improvements they will use one of the cottages as temporary office accommodation. The present occupants will be rehoused in a Council house. 55 03 19

1955 03 26

Cambridge Folk Museum Council have made attempts to make the long-delayed move to Abbey House which was purchased for the Museum in 1946, but have found it quite impossible to proceed on financial grounds. So they have decided to give the tenants a five-year lease, as it was obvious they could not move there for some time to come. The Museum has received a gratifying number of accessions including a fine collection of 150 photographs taken by the late Dr Frank Robinson. 55 03 26a

1955 07 30

What's all this about people getting married at Shire Hall not being allowed to park their cars in the Council car park? Have the County Council no romance in their hearts and do they want to lose custom? People will be saying "Don't go to the Shire Hall for your wedding; if you do you'll be chivvied out of it pronto". Some say park in front of the County Police headquarters – but this will stop patrol cars getting out of the police yard. Who occupies the Council car park anyway? Members of the Council and staff. Are there too many of these and too many cars? I only asked! 55 07 30b

1955 12 13

The clock that changed places – St Giles' church – 55 12 13a

1956 02 25

Shire hall court tenders deferred – 56 02 25a, 56 02 26a & c

1956 03 06

The Lord Mayor of London visited Cambridge to open a new block of flats for old people at Honey Hill, Northampton Street. It was the first such visit and brought a glimpse of the pageantry in which the true Londoner takes great pride. In 1936 the frontage had been bought by the council with a quarter of the cost paid by Cambridge Preservation Society and Magdalene College. But the war intervened and the site was a blot for many years. Now the Mayor presented the keys to the first tenants, Mr & Mrs H.C. Rogers. 56 03 06a-d

1956 03 30

If the number of cars increases motorists won't be able to get in to Cambridge very easily because of all the stationary cars cluttering up the streets and the whole problem of parking is extremely frustrating. It is time to get tough. If we must set up car parks outside the city and run the people in by special buses then we mustn't hesitate. But the land once occupied by the old Shire Hall courts on Castle Hill would make a good site for a multi-deck car park. 56 03 30b

1957 04 01

Cambridge Folk Museum has been considering the need to improve its present quarters in Castle Street. Abbey House is now let with the rents from tenants forming a substantial part of its income and another property put on the market was beyond their means. It had been suggested they might move to St Michael's Church but even if permission was granted the building was not really suitable. 57 04 01a

1957 08 31

A four-storey hostel for Clare College between the Shire Hall mound and Chesterton Road will provide the most modern accommodation in the University. Each of the 40 students will have his own bed-sitting room with adjoining washroom and clothes cupboards and central blocks of bathrooms and

w.c.s. During vacations it will be used by delegates attending conferences. When the proposed Spine Relief Road is constructed the North side will face an up-to-date motorway. 57 08 31c & d

1958 01 14

Cambridge Folk Museum revived an ancient custom when workmen, having completed the re-roofing, joined the Curator (Miss Enid Porter) in 'toasting' the building in beer. This is the first time the building has been re-roofed completely since the 16th-century and its appearance now differs very little from that time as old tiles have been used. The beams were in a good state of preservation and required little attention. 58 01 14

1958 01 28

Six Cambridge churches are redundant, according to a committee appointed by the Bishop of Ely. St Peter's presents no pressing problem, St Michael's has for long been an embarrassment and should be converted into a parish hall, St Clement's is clearly redundant with few worshippers. With active evangelisation All Saints could justify its purpose as a parish church but St Botolph's would probably be taken over by Corpus Christi as a library and Great St Andrew's might be bought by the City to develop, they speculate. 58 01 28

1958 02 03

Shire Hall is to be enlarged by an additional storey, increasing office accommodation by 20 per cent. Several councillors argued this was unnecessary in times of financial stringency when secondary education had to reduce its expenditure. But builders are short of work and will do it at a competitive figure. It was a long-term policy to achieve centralisation of the council's administration. 58 02 03a & b

1958 02 10

Whippet Coaches were refused permission to use Drummer Street. Eastern Counties had paid for improvements to the bus station and 85 per cent of their country services were not remunerative. This would add to competition. The Chief Constable said it was already filled and if granted other operators from the Northampton Street terminus would also apply, leading to increased congestion. 58 02 10

1958 05 05

An extra storey was urgently needed at Shire Hall, councillors were told. In the Treasurer's Department the staff were sitting on top of one another. In the Registrar's Office, people had to wait in a passage if there was a wedding on. And the County Archivist, who really needed four rooms, had only one. But at Linton Hospital they had been asked to economise and the cost of the new Shire Hall must not interfere with works of that kind. They voted to go ahead. 58 05 05 & b

1958 07 24

Shire Hall new storey tender – 58 07 24b

1958 07 25

A little two-bedroomed cottage should be built for Enid Porter, the Curator of the Folk Museum, councillors agreed. The five-bedroomed flat they'd allocated as emergency accommodation was condemned property; it was just a mass of corrugated iron which spoils the beauty of Northampton Street. It would be an insult to offer it to her and should be used to relieve the housing problem for a larger family. 58 07 25a

1958 10 24

A new Occupation Centre for mentally handicapped children was opened at Coldham's Lane to provide daytime accommodation for the youngsters and give their parents a respite from their responsibilities. A small centre had opened in Hope Street in 1929 under the old Voluntary Mental Welfare Association. After the County Council took over responsibility in 1948 it moved to St Giles' parish rooms at Pound Hill. 58 10 24a & b

1958 10 25

Car parking should not be allowed in Cambridge city centre and motorists should be compelled to leave their vehicles on the outskirts. Parking should be banned from an area bounded by Castle Hill, Grange Road, the Catholic Church and Mill Road. If this 'perimeter parking' could not be introduced then there must be an effective underground and an overhead car park, the Mayor, Coun. L.D.V. Wordingham told police. 58 10 25c & d

1959 05 27

St Giles church clock – 59 05 27

1959 07 25

St Peter's church, Castle Hill, which was founded in 1087 and has been in almost continuous use, is once again open after its recent restoration. It has been given a new stone floor, a modern simply designed altar and a clean white limewash coat to its walls. In addition the unique Norman font, bearing a merman holding his twin tails at each angle, has been moved to a more prominent position. Now they are looking for a few pews which will retain the spacious atmosphere of the very small church. 59 07 25

1959 11 21

Castle End Mission history – 59 11 21d

1960 03 18

In a small room hidden away at the back of the Shire Hall, from which the County Civil Defence services were once run, a huge and priceless collection of books, maps and documents relating to the Bedford Level Corporation have just been delivered. Soon the newly-appointed County Records Officer, Miss Clare Cross, Honorary County Archivist Captain Percy Bales and manuscript repair expert, Mr B. Grainger, will start the vast job of indexing them. The work of the County Records Office is growing so quickly that recently it moved into larger and better accommodation which once formed part of the Shire Hall Clinic 60 03 18c

1960 07 01

Thousands of people gathered at Castle Hill to protest at the Local Government Boundary Commission proposals to merge Cambridgeshire into one administrative unit with Huntingdonshire and the Isle of Ely. There was no evidence any benefit would result. The wish of the City of Cambridge to govern itself as a county borough was criticised as an act of betrayal of the county of which it was the centre. It was better to be capital of an historic and ancient shire than to be a modern statutory creature. 60 07 01b

1961 01 02

The warehouses of Radio and Television Services Ltd, Gloucester Street, were gutted by fire. Scores of people living nearby went into their gardens as showers of sparks and splinters from exploding radio valves and television tubes showered down on their premises and residents of Clare Street used garden hoses to prevent the fire endangering their garden sheds. Arthur Brett (80) said the blaze and noise was just like the battle of the Somme. Employees will be moved to other buildings in the Pye group and there will be no serious interruption in the repair and servicing facilities operated by the company. The two-storey high building also houses a technical school for overseas radio experts. 61 01 02c

1961 07 21

Cambridge Pageant, Castle Hill – 61 07 21

1961 08 14

Fire swept through a warehouse and store room at the Radio and Television Service's factory in Gloucester Street. It was the second fire the firm has suffered at these premises this year, and the third to cause serious damage to the company's workshops in eight months. On New Years Day the factory was badly damaged and rebuilding work is not yet complete. Then three weeks ago their paint spraying shops at Sawston were gutted. Detectives spent the weekend probing the cause which was identified as an electrical failure 61 08 14

1961 12 06

Pythagoras Hall in Northampton Street has been bought by St John's College. It is the earliest secular building in the city and was home to the first Mayor of Cambridge. But his family lost its wealth and it was sold to Merton College, Oxford, in 1270. For several centuries it was leased to farmers and became a granary. St John's hope to use it for collegiate purposes, though it means that Lord Rothschild, a University lecturer in Zoology, will have to move 61 12 06

1961 12 21

Cambridge Folk Museum has been closed for the last nine months while various alterations and extensions have taken place. Several major improvements have been made as part of a programme that started four years ago. First the building was re-roofed, then a house was erected for the resident curator, Miss Enid Porter. This meant the old house at no.3 Castle Street became available for museum use. It has been redecorated, the staircases widened and a new system of oil heating installed 61 12 21a

1961 12 27

It is going to be even colder than it was during most of the Christmas freeze-up when ice on the Cam trapped several swans in the water. On Christmas morning fire appliances went to St Giles' church where a small fire severely damaged an electric motor in the organ. They were also called to Avery's scale makers premises in Regent Street and at Joseph Lucas on Newmarket Road where pipes in the ceilings burst and flooded the premises. The Waterworks Company dealt with 30 burst pipes on Christmas Day 61 12 27 61 12 30

1962 02 01

The changing face of old Cambridge will soon see further demolition. Already a number of houses have been pulled down in Shelley Row and four more are to follow including one boasting an elegant example of a Mansard roof. The building on the corner of Leeke Street and Newmarket Row, known as Mendicity House, formerly provided lodgings for beggars following the Napoleonic War. It was later purchased by the Industrial Dwellings Company, set up to improve the inadequate housing in the Barnwell area. It is now Harris' butcher shop. 62 02 01b & c

1962 03 19

Dispute over use of land at corner of Castle Street –Shelley Row – Mount Pleasant – 62 03 19a

1962 04 25

St Giles Cricket Club history – 62 04 25

1962 07 05

County Council plans for a new "inner relief road" linking the Huntingdon Road-Castle Hill junction with Hyde Park Corner would cost £932,000 (£16.3m today). There would be a new bridge over the Cam at Jesus Green with an underpass at Four Lamps before the road continued to Parkside and Regent Street. This figure did not include the cost of acquiring additional land. It was needed to deal with traffic problems in Magdalene Street which is very narrow, an Inquiry was told. 62 07 05b

1962 08 09

City planning inquiry considers Castle Hill area – 62 08 09a

1962 08 18

Site of old Shire Hall courts cleverly landscaped to hide the car park which lies in front of trees – 62 08 18

1963 05 17

Cyril Phythian from Dry Drayton has, after tremendous effort, produced the delightful Solway cricket ground. It is one of the most picturesque for miles, entirely enclosed by small trees and flanked by his bungalow. The pitch was used for a time by the village cricket club but now has been adopted by the St Giles Cricket Club of Cambridge. Its cedar pavilion will be a place where cricketers can bring their wives and children for an afternoon out. 63 05 17

1963 06 10

St Peter's church spire to be restored – 63 06 10

1964 04 13

The Cambridgeshire Deep Freeze Company was formed in 1952 in adapted buildings on Pound Hill, then extended into pre-fabricated cold rooms nearby. Soon however the whole of the Pound Hill area became part of a redevelopment plan and they moved to a new site at Girton during the severe winter of 1962-63. It accommodates bulk quantities of raw materials such as raspberries and blackcurrants for national processors but one cold room is sub-divided into lockers which can be hired to private individuals for the storage of game or garden produce. 64 04 13b & c

1964 06 02

Cambridgeshire County Council is anxious to buy compulsory some land at Castle Hill, including that occupied by the Sir Isaac Newton public house, for their new assize courts building scheme. They also want a private house in Gloucester Street and a cycle store. Much of the other land between Gloucester Street corner and the county police headquarters has already been acquired for the court project permission for which has been given after a delay of several years. Work should start this year. 64 06 02a

1964 09 15

The first stage of Cambridge's Inner Relief Road would comprise twin-carriageways starting with a roundabout at Murkett's Corner, on the junction of Huntingdon and Histon Roads. The planned road goes southward through the Rex Cinema site, leaving space for the proposed law courts near Shire Hall. As it approaches Chesterton Road there will be a flyover to take the main traffic flow over a roundabout. Then there would be a new bridge over the Cam before it crosses Jesus Green parallel to Park Parade. A subway will give access under the road to Jesus Green. 64 09 15

1964 09 18

Farm Dairies, F.G. Jeater, Pound Hill – careers for milkman – 64 09 18g

1964 11 18

Cherry Trees, a club for the elderly, has opened in new buildings in St Matthew's Street which have been donated by Miss Evelyn Boake. It will be run by the W.V.S. on similar lines to their successful Hill Top Club on Castle Hill. The main room with a lounge opens out to a sun terrace. The décor is rich and colourful with easy chairs in orange blue, green and red. Coffees and lunches will be served each weekday to men and women of pensionable age who are not in full employment. At present the main problem is obtaining sufficient volunteers to help serve. 64 11 18

1964 12 28

Sir – Magdalene College's plan to pull down a row of cottages, nos.8-18, in Northampton Street and replace them with a garden would alter its character and leave a gap in this distinctive part of old Cambridge. The row at present makes a beautiful curve, a fitting foil to the more splendid Cory House and no.13 Magdalene Street. In view of the college's highly successful treatment of Magdalene Street where the aspect has been retained, I hope they will find some other solution short of complete demolition – Elizabeth Harland 64 12 28



1965 01 27

Northampton Street cottages being reroofed – photo – 65 01 27a

1965 10 11

Northampton St at beginning century; houses being modernised and corner house to be demolished – photo – 65 10 11b

1965 10 15

Shire Hall not to open car park to public at weekend – 65 10 15b

1967 05 06

Shire Hall redevelopment envisages 15-storey block of offices and law court, car parking under pedestrian precinct – 67 05 06

1968 10 10

Panorama from Castle Hill – photo – 68 10 10

1969 03 29

Northampton Street cottages, four empty converted by St John's college for use of married graduates – 69 03 20a

1969 04 05

Excavation of Roman town in Mount Pleasant, Albion Row area- 69 04 05

1969 08 23

Demolition on corner Gloucester Street & Castle Hill for new County Council premises – photo – 69 08 23, 69 09 23a

1970 05 06

Prince Charles opens Kettle's Yard Gallery – 70 05 06a

1970 06 10

De Vere granted permission for hotel and office block at Pound Hill – but will be inquiry – 70 06 10

1970 07 29

Ely Diocesan report says four churches may close – St Andrew the Great, All Saints, St Giles and St Peter- 70 07 29, a,b

1971 01 27

Shire Hall plan Castle Court extension with landscaped offices – 71 01 27b

1972 01 28

Roman Cambridge may be lost – dereliction of Shelley Row, Mount Pleasant area – feature – 72 01 28

1972 07 04

It is unlikely that many ratepayers will visit the Shire Hall in Cambridge this week to see how their money is being spent on the latest chapter in the De Vere Hotel saga. They should. Almost everybody agrees that the city could do with that 200-bedroom hotel at Mount Pleasant. The proposal by De Vere Hotels to build a £2 million hotel was originally approved by the County Council but the Environment Minister claimed that the development was too large for the site. If the hotel is not built the developers could claim compensation of up to £500,000 & ratepayers would have to foot the bill

1972 09 01

The Cambridge & County Folk Museum is run on a shoestring, but thanks to its indefatigable curator, Miss Enid Porter, it has become a model of what a people's museum should be - intimate, quaint and compact. That the museum so ably embraces the local community's way of life is due, undoubtedly, to the skill and reputation of its curator, who is acknowledged as an expert on East Anglian folk lore and witchcraft and is particularly renowned for her understanding of fenland. Miss Porter is a powerhouse of activity since coming to Cambridge in 1947 she has created an invaluable display of bygones and bric-a-brac. When it is remembered that she does it on £3,000 a year the scale and depth of the exhibition is nothing short of miraculous

1972 12 22

The £2 million De Vere hotel building project at Mount Pleasant - Huntingdon Road corner in Cambridge has been given final clearance by the Cambridgeshire planners. The drawings of the proposed 200-bedroom hotel - the largest in East Anglia were given approval privately this week by the city planning department. Last month the Environment Minister gave approval to the project. The De Vere hotel saga has dragged on for more than four years during which time it has occupied two major public inquiries and has been the subject of a High Court hearing

1973 09 04

De Vere's have been given final planning permission to go ahead with their plans to build a £2 million-plus hotel at the Huntingdon Road - Mount Pleasant junction, Cambridge - almost five years after the project was first proposed. But the London-based company are not saying yet when they intend to start building on the derelict site overlooking one of the city's busiest road junctions. It was at the beginning of 1969 that De Vere Hotels and Restaurants Ltd submitted their original plans for the hotel

1973 10 25

De Vere have finally abandoned their plans to build a 5-star 200-bedroom hotel at Cambridge's Mount Pleasant - Huntingdon Road junction. Instead the company have suggested to planners that the site could be used for a four-storey block of residential flats with a restaurant, showrooms, offices and a bank included in the development. The company say it is "no longer economically viable" to go ahead with the hotel project which has been on the stocks for four years. It is being suggested that the originally estimated building costs of around £2 million has now risen to about £3.8 million

1974 01 05

One of Cambridge's finest medieval buildings, the Abbey House in Abbey Road, was formally presented to the city council as a gift from the Cambridge Folk Museum. The house was originally given to the museum in 1946 by the first Lord Fairhaven who had hoped it would be an enlarged Folk Museum. But the curator, Miss Enid Porter, said he had come to realise the building was just not suitable and the museum did not have the resources to keep the house in good repair

1974 08 05

Cambridge teddy boys were out in force on Saturday for a double Teddy boy wedding at the Shire Hall. Members of the Cambridge Rock & Roll club dressed up to the nines in teddy boy drapes, creepers, dazzling socks and boot-lace ties formed a guard of honour for the two couples as they left the register office. All their rock & roll friends were invited to a joint reception at the Alex Wood Hall when one of the country's top rock and roll groups, the Impalas from London, played

1975 02 11

Voluntary workers in Cambridge are battling to keep an old peoples' day club and meals on wheels service going while they wait for new premises. The WRVS Hill Top Club for the elderly is run in a dilapidated "pre-fab" on Castle Hill. The workers took the building over in 1958 from American servicemen who had used it as a social club. It has been feared the building would not last until new premises at Primrose Croft were built.

1975 03 29

The Oyster Tavern in Northampton St, Cambridge is one of those restaurants that only those in the know are likely to be able to find. It is still listed in the telephone directory under "Bistro Italo". Those who remember the old Bistro will probably avoid it. They will be making a big mistake. Sirloin steak is offered at £1.90, salted beef at £1.40 and chicken Provencale at £1.25. Like almost everyone else we chose seafood and did not regret it. Apple pie and cream and chocolate nut sundae were both 25p.

1975 09 17

There is no reason why Cambridge's first mini roundabout should not become a permanent feature. The roundabout at the junction of Queen's Road with Northampton Street came into operation yesterday morning. It is hoped this will overcome the long tailback which has occurred in Queen's Road since the introduction of the city centre traffic scheme.

1976 03 03

The branch library at the Cambridge Shire Hall is to close down and will be replaced once-a-week by a visit of one of the county council's mobile libraries. The decision to close down the library – to save an estimated £6,000 a year was taken at the county budget meeting. A petition of more than 500 signatures of readers asked for the building to continue. When a vote was taken there were 25 for and 25 against and the decision was taken on the casting vote of the Chairman.

1976 03 16

Both visitors and staff at the Cambridge County Record Office, Shire Hall, are still having to put up with overcrowded conditions. One visitor has described conditions as "the worst of any record office in the country". The county archivist says in his annual report that there has been no improvement in office or search room space. One woman who had been offered a post on the staff had declined it because of the overcrowding which she had observed.

1976 12 07

The curator of the Cambridge Folk Museum, Miss Enid Porter, is retiring this week because of ill-health, after running it single-handed for about 29 years. At the moment she is in hospital and the museum is closed. Since she took charge of the museum in 1947 its popularity and size have grown considerably. It was started following an exhibition of folk items by the Women's Institute in 1936. Cambridge Rotarians launched an appeal for a folk museum and eventually the present premises in Castle Street were acquired. Miss Porter has been a prolific author, writing books on Cambridgeshire folklore and customs and contributing articles to regional magazines

1977 03 19

Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club now has 21 members. In action in a dingy cold room upstairs at the Castle pub, Castle Hill they slouch on all fours over the felt mat playing area and talk intensely of tactics using weird words like bristolling, crudding and squopping surface. To a certain extent the dedicated members of the winking world feel under threat, their skills unrecognised by the mocking, unwinking masses, but say that tiddlywinks can give back health and mental stability to those who are ravaged by the complexity and over-mechanisation of modern life

1977 11 25

Cambridge City Council is to think again about plans to sell the mid 17th-century Abbey House in Abbey Road. The Folk Museum Trustees had given the ancient house to the city council only four years ago in the hope they would look after it. Coun Warren said: "It is shameful if the council is now considering selling the house and keeping the money itself." Coun John Powley said that money to repair the property was limited and the best course would be to sell it to the person living there and let him carry out repair work costing thousands of pounds

1978 01 31

A recent move to sell the Abbey House, Cambridge to its long-standing tenant, retired Professor Peter Danckwerts, raised eyebrows among people who know the history of the place. It was bought for the

Folk Museum by Lord Fairhaven in 1945. No endowment was made and the museum found it impossible to keep up the house. It was given to the city in 1973 and the city has found it an embarrassment ever since, spending little on repairs. But a former Mayor and chairman of the Cambridge Preservation Society threatened to take the city council to court if it was sold

1978 05 31

The News decided to celebrate its 90th birthday by doing something light-hearted and invited 90 members of the Mid-Anglia population to pose for a photograph that would show a cross-section of the diverse community it seeks to serve. People who might never meet in everyday life found themselves jumbled together on the Shire Hall lawns for a photograph. Boxer and bank manager, actress and agronomist, proctor and postman became neighbours in a marvellous mixture. There was even a dog and a rabbit to represent readers' fondness for household pets. Aqualung diver Bob Kirby was driven to taking ice from the champagne buckets in a desperate attempt to keep cool.

1979 01 16

Cambridge's northern by-pass is not a thing of beauty and has exposed the city's none-too-glorious backsides. Milton sewage works, the wrong end of the Arbury estate and a few dumping grounds that so far we have been able to conceal. For the local travelling along this stretch of dual carriageway is a new and rather bewildering experience. Coming at everything from an unfamiliar angle creates an impression that north Cambridgeshire as I knew it has been wiped off the map. The really beneficial effect has been the easing of the pressure on the Northampton Street / Castle Hill junction; five times I have passed through these usually overworked traffic lights with little delay.

1979 02 26

One of the longest-serving landlords in Cambridge is Noel Archdeacon and his wife Hannah Mae of the Cow and Calf public house on Pound Hill. They are particularly well-known to their Irish regulars, several of whom were customers at their two previous Cambridge pubs, both of which have disappeared. The Britannia in East Road was demolished years ago and The Swan in Norfolk Street is now a private house. Their present pub has belatedly had a complete internal facelift and now has one large lounge where there is plenty of room for the new pool table.

1979 04 12

A new building jutting into the Cambridge skyline from the top of Castle Hill has filled in the city's largest hole. The site was to have been used for the De Vere Hotel but after several planning applications were rejected the firm pulled out and the hole was left. Then came plans for a complex of shops, a petrol station, a bank, offices and maisonettes but each scheme failed. The site is now being developed as a 42,000 sq ft office building though the project has not gone without a hitch. The first Cambridge builders folded and the developers had to find another firm in a hurry. All they have to do now is to let the place —and there are many who say that Cambridge is overstocked with offices already.

1979 05 15

Princess Margaret made an unscheduled walk to one of Cambridge's oldest churches, St Peter's on Castle Hill. It followed her visit the University's Gallery of Modern Art at Kettle's Yard, which was opened by Prince Charles in his undergraduate days. She saw a model of the proposed extensions which if approved would double the exhibition space and provide refreshment facilities for the public. Later, at her own request, she saw a class of medical students at work in the University Department of Physiology.

1979 06 13

Since Christmas a succession of tipplers have staggered along laden with old wine bottles to the Friends of the Earth bottle shop in Castle Row, Cambridge, only to find it shut. It closed because the companies which were taking the bottles refused to take any more but now the Glass Manufacturers Federation has started opening 'bottle banks'. It's just a skip in which people throw their empties which are then smashed up melted down to make new bottles. There is talk of one being set up in Cambridge but in the meantime bottles continue to pile up unwanted outside the Friends' door.

1979 07 04

Cambridgeshire County Council has decided to establish its permanent headquarters at the Shire Hall. The council set up its 'temporary' headquarters at Cambridge following local government reorganisation more than five years ago but decided to move eventually to the Hinchingsbrooke estate at Huntingdon. Now they have changed their minds: Huntingdon is not scheduled as a major centre of the future while Cambridge is a regional centre of public administration and an internationally-known city. It is a natural magnet for staff and to move would have a seriously demoralising effect. The Shire Hall site is large enough for all their administrative needs and officers pointed out the high cost of building at a time when the council was already in financial difficulties. Now the land reserved for the new office complex is to be sold.

1979 07 18

A money-saving decision taken more than a year ago looks like paying off much more than anyone expected – and all because of the oil crisis. Councillors decided to invest in an electrically –driven mobile library, the first of its kind in the country, to serve parts of Cambridge which were affected when the old Shire Hall library was closed down for economy reasons. It cost £2,000 more than a petrol-driven version but will bring big savings in operating costs. If the experiment is a success more will be bought to replace the ageing and expensive petrol-driven fleet.

1979 07 18

Not everyone in Cambridge sees Mount Pleasant House but to those who use Huntingdon Road this new office block bulks very large indeed. The initial scheme was described as "Excessively bulky, un-neighbourly, inconsiderate of adjoining owners and occupiers, out of scale with its surroundings and over-dominant in the local scene' by the Environment Minister but his decision to reject it was reversed at a subsequent inquiry. There will be 16 trees round the main building together with a number of shrubs but it will always look what it is – 50,000 square feet of office space.

1979 08 22

At the back of the Shire Hall and behind the Sir Isaac Newton pub in Cambridge sits a small, portable office. It houses four dedicated workers who are preparing for nuclear war and other major disasters such as flooding, hurricanes and air crashes. Total nuclear war is a frightening prospect and the Government has taken steps to plan for such a holocaust. Now parish councillors are to be trained as the latest part of the contingency plans; they would act as 'community advisors', helping to bring life back to normal in highly disrupted areas.

1980 02 09

A dark spectre with a high collar and spiky hair has been terrifying staff at the Oyster Tavern in Northampton Street, Cambridge. The ghost has been seen twice in three weeks in the pub's downstairs bar by the manager's wife and a barmaid. They saw the figure standing in the middle of the bar about midnight; it did not move and they could not see any details of its clothes. The bar is the oldest part of the building and used to be a grocer's shop. There has been a history of strange happenings at the pub but they are not planning to have the ghost exorcised as it seems quite friendly.

80 02 09

1980 02 26

Already the new Western Bypass is having the desired effect in the Castle Hill area of Cambridge. Thomas Whitelaw whose window overlooks the street said: "Normally the heavy traffic starts at about 7.30 am and you get convoys of 12 to 15 heavy lorries every few minutes sending vibrations right through the house. Now it is much quieter". But in Wendens Ambo villagers are demanding a new road surface, soundproof barriers and double glazing, saying the peace and quiet of their village has been ruined since the new section of the M11 opened nearby

1980 06 20

The war plan for Cambridgeshire which will detail the role of the county council is not yet finished. A regional commissioner would be introduced in the run-up to any attack and county controllers would go to their headquarters in the basements of the Shire hall. This is a small, rather cluttered room with little more than maps, telephones and teleprinters and no special protection other than the thickness of the walls. 80 06 20c

1980 11 18

More than 1,000 demonstrators massed in the centre of Cambridge in protest over plans to slash county council spending. They chanted and jeered councillors arriving for a meeting. A macabre scaffold with a schoolboy hanging from it stood near Shire Hall as part of an attempt to halt cuts of £2 million which would serious damage services, particularly education. But Francis Pym, MP, said the world is in a very deep recession and they must make difficult decisions. 80 11 18

1981 04 30

The least expensive part of a traditional wedding is the service. In an Anglican Church the basic charges for the ceremony without music add up to £25 plus an extra £3 for reading the banns. Extras such as an organist or choir cost £5 each. A Shire Hall register office ceremony costs £13. But a wedding dress averages £65, flowers £30 and wedding photographs at least £80. A Littleport firm now offers a video film for £85 but you need a video recorder to watch it afterwards. 81 04 30a

1981 12 04

The Oak in Lensfield Road had a world-wide reputation as a centre for good Irish music. Before modernisation it was a wonderful place. Playing sessions would start up automatically on Friday nights, Saturday lunchtimes and Sundays too. But now venues for Irish music are fast disappearing in Cambridge. The demise of the Ancient Druids was another blow and the Cow and Calf on Pound Hill is virtually the only one remaining. 81 12 04b

1982 03 26

The Tansley Typewriter Company started as the British Rebuilt Typewriter Company in Gloucester Street in 1922. It was bought by David Mutch in 1974. He acquired a van, the trade name, some contracts and a few spare parts. Now the arrival of the electric typewriter has meant taking on new skills which will be adapted as it moves into word processors, memory banks and the sophisticated paraphernalia of the modern office. 82 03 26

1982 09 18

A pub, a row of shops and six acres of office buildings in Castle Hill and Gloucester Street may be sold by Cambridgeshire County Council. They want reduce the sprawling Shire Hall site and abandon the ramshackle array of offices at the rear of the main complex. They are expensive to maintain and unpopular with staff who work in them. Discussions with developers will take place soon. 82 09 15  
The six-acre county council temporary office site off Castle Street and Gloucester Street may become a city council housing and industrial estate. Council officials will meet to see if a deal between the two authorities is possible. Housing and job creation have been given top priority by the City, but the county want the best financial deal they can get. 82 09 18

1982 10 15

In the basement of Shire Hall is an 'emergency planning room' packed with maps, telephones and radio sets. It has windows, thickish walls and a large conference table but would offer virtually no protection from a direct nuclear hit. It is designed to act as a communications network liaising with the emergency services, the water authority, railways and so on during any emergency from floods in Wisbech to the sudden cutting of the county's gas supplies. 82 10 15 & a

1982 12 09

Accommodation for computer-based companies in Cambridge is at a premium. Several firms are run from private houses with others based around King's Parade and Jesus Lane, where buildings are available and rents favourable. Now a technology square is planned for land at the rear of Shire Hall



similar to Trinity College's Science Park but at smaller rents. There might be dual-purpose buildings for start-up companies providing both a home and an office to work in. 82 12 09

1983 01 13

Cambridge was the first place to provide a science park. Now the County Council propose to establish a technology village on the Shire Hall redevelopment site. The novel scheme would provide both houses and workshops in an attempt to create a 21st-century high technology community. It would have offices, shops, a pub and recreational facilities. Secretaries and photocopiers could be shared. 83 01 13

1983 01 25

A huddle of converted school buildings off Pound Hill has just fetched the highest price ever paid for residential land in Cambridge. The quarter-acre site, previously used by Unigate as a dairy distribution centre, has been sold for £140,000 – which is £560,000 per acre. It demonstrates the potential for this area which is close to the Cam and the centre of town. 83 01 25a

1983 03 12

The gallows from the old Cambridge prison behind the assize courts on Castle Hill have been restored in a quiet suburban back garden in Nottingham. The last hanging took place in November 1913. Hundreds of people queued to inspect the gaol in June 1930 before it was demolished. They included Doris Melbourne; she visited the prison three times with her father, William Wale, who took photographs of the gallows in situ. 82 03 12c

1983 06 30

A scheme to develop seven acres of land behind Shire Hall for offices and a high technology centre will save the Isaac Newton pub and other buildings in Castle Street which had been under threat of demolition. It will include 520 basement car parking spaces together with twelve terrace houses on Magrath Avenue. At present the site is covered by a ramshackled array of ancient council office buildings which are difficult and expensive to maintain and unpopular with the staff working in them. 83 06 30 p7

1983 07 01

A pub, a row of shops and six acres of office buildings in Castle Hill and Gloucester Street may be sold by Cambridgeshire County Council. They want reduce the sprawling Shire Hall site and abandon the ramshackle array of offices at the rear of the main complex. They are expensive to maintain and unpopular with staff who work in them. Discussions with developers will take place soon. 82 09 15  
A visit to Waffles on Castle Hill is like stepping back in time to the heyday of the unique Kite café which was such a popular venue until the bulldozers moved in. The highly successful venture was built up by Mrs Virginia Le Charite over nine years until its closure in 1981. The familiar tables and chairs, the ornate cash register, the dresser and clock are all there and it is still producing those scrumptious and filling savoury and sweet batter rolls with a variety of toppings at prices from 90p. 83 07 01 p24

1983 09 29

The Cambridge Civic Society, which fights planning applications around Cambridge, is being wound up and its members urged to join the Cambridge Preservation Society – the group from which it split off in 1961. Projects in which they have been involved include the Kite area, Stansted airport, the M11 Inquiry and Robinson College. At present they are concerned about the proposed large office development on the Shire Hall site, preferring to see it as a community area. 83 09 29 p19

1984 01 19

Enid Porter ran the Cambridge Folk Museum single-handed from 1947 for 30 years and the impressive collection now it now houses museum was largely as a result of her endeavour. She took the entrance money, arranged exhibitions and cleaned the museum. In 1968 she had not had a pay rise for 15 years; her wages were £8 a week at a time when comparable jobs were paying £1,500 a year.

Richard Wilson, the current curator said “She was a marvellous lively woman who gave her life to the museum”. 84 01 19 p6

1984 03 27

West's, the motor dealers, celebrates a special 25th anniversary of their association with Renault cars. Having developed their one acre site on Newmarket Road into a glittering glass-walled showroom they have stayed true to the French company and are looking forward to the next 25 years with them. The business began with Sidney and Ethel West operating a small vehicle tuning workshop in Gloucester Street 55 years ago. They now employ 64 people. 84 03 27

1984 07 25

Cambridge's office space is going fast. Mount Pleasant House on Castle Hill is now fully let as is the former Heffers printing works in Hills Road whose Betjeman House is used by two computer software firms, Acornsoft and Logica. Citibank has taken the first floor of Hunting Gate's Carlyle House while Standard Life's development on the corner of Glisson Road was let prior to the completion of the building. 84 07 25

1984 11 09

William Sindall, the construction group founded in 1881, has moved from Cherry Hinton Road to new premises at Sawston. In 1936 Harold Ridgeon and his brother Frank merged it with their housing activities based in Gloucester Street. They expanded into airfield construction during WWII and went public in 1965. 84 11 09 p34

1984 12 19

Devi Agarwala was penniless when he first moved to England in 1950 but became one of Cambridge's best-known business men. He opened the city's first Indian restaurant, the Kismet in Northampton Street, and the Harlequin club and casino in Regent Street as well as an International Centre and language school. He was a member of the Pentacle Magic Club and organised a three-day All-India Magic Conference which had to be cancelled due to the murder of India's Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Ghandi. 84 12 19

1985 04 18

The new high-tech development on Castle Hill will include full secretarial back-up facilities, a gymnasium, squash courts, restaurant and overnight accommodation. Conference rooms and access to an underground car park will also be available to those who rent rooms. The 'village' will be self-contained and will appeal to people like university lecturers who might also be a consultant and needs his own space. Rents will be 25 percent less than average in central Cambridge 85 04 18

1985 05 29

Castle Park, the £10 million high-tech development on County Council land next to Shire Hall has been inaugurated. It offers 'thinking space' to scientists and academics involved in research and development of high-technology ideas. The project will be fully self-contained with its own conference facilities, restaurant, gymnasium, squash courts and overnight accommodation as well as centrally available office equipment and secretarial support. A key attribute is its location in the heart of the city close to many of the University's colleges. 85 05 29b

1985 06 13

Prince Philip visits Lucy Cavendish College – 85 06 13

1985 09 27

Cambridge Cattle Market opened 100 years ago. Before 1885 it was held at Castle End but the stalls were inadequate for the number of beasts. Then Jesus College provided land near the railway station. Cattle docks from all four railways were within two minutes' walk and there were direct railway links to Scotland and Ireland. There are still weekly sales of stock, with horse sales every five weeks, but the area nearby that was used for grazing is now the Clifton Industrial Estate. It is filled with large corrugated boxes housing a wide variety of light industry and a 'Park and Ride' site 85 09 27

1986 05 29

Cromwell's House, Shelley Row history – 86 05 29

1986 07 03

Gloucester Street off Castle Hill, Cambridge, has seen considerable changes in the last 60 years. Until 1924 it was a little estate of its own, with labourers' terraced cottages, a few semi-detached houses, a mission room and a pub. Today nothing remains of the old residential area. But Ronald Chapman has constructed a cardboard model of it which is on display in the Cambridgeshire Collection. Every house is detailed, the street lights are in the right place as are the three outside taps which supplied some householders with their only water 86 07 03

1987 03 13

A new purpose-built car park providing 67 long-stay spaces has opened in Castle Hill, with another 57 places coming in a few months' time. City councillors say the park, near the junction with Victoria Road, will offer convenient access to shops and businesses in the north of Cambridge. It will have a park-and-display system charging 50p for any period on weekdays, doubling to £1 on April 1st. But there will be free parking in evenings and Sundays 87 03 13a

1987 04 25

City councillors have stepped in to stave off the shock closure of the Cambridge Folk Museum which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. They decided to give an immediate grant to help it over its financial crisis for the next six months after its curator, Tom Doig, told how it received little income and there were no private financial resources. Councillors are also rethinking proposals to treble the Museum's rent to £12,000 a year. 87 04 25

1987 06 12

The Cambridge Brass Rubbing Centre is one of the region's most unusual tourist attractions. Thousands of visitors from all over the world come to take rubbing from some 150 facsimiles of brasses, many from local churches. It was started as a part-time sideline by Jenny McLachlan 12 years ago and has recently moved from the Wesley Church to a new home in St Giles' Church on Castle Hill. Now it has become too busy for her and has been put up for sale 87 06 12c

1987 11 05

Vision Park, the controversial office and high-tech development in Histon, has gained a major first tenant which suggests that the developers were right in thinking Histon was an acceptable business location. Construction of a second phase on the former Chivers site across Station Road started in August. Barclays Bank is taking half of the first completed building to replace their head office above the bank in Bene't Street. The move follows Lloyds Bank's decision to take a large headquarters block at Castle Park, Shire Hall and Midland's move of its management team to Parkers House in Regent Street. 87 11 05b

1988 01 20

A desperate shortage of hotel accommodation and a dismal nightlife is putting off people visiting Cambridge, a report says. The closure of the Victoria Cinema is part of a long-term decline in entertainment in the city centre and with the exception of the Corn Exchange, little has been done to encourage more. But plans for the Cambridge Heritage Centre at St Giles' church and a leisure pool at Parkside are going ahead. 88 01 20

1988 04 14

Sir - Cambridge museums are facing severe financial problems. The Folk Museum illustrates the social and domestic life of people over the past three centuries. The curator, Tom Doig, is doing sterling work with school parties and a series of exhibitions, attracting an increasing number of visitors to the museum. But he is hampered in his work by finance levels. There is an even worse situation with the Museum of Technology where enthusiasm has ensured the preservation and

restoration of the pumping station. Adequate resources must be made available so that both can properly keep alive the heritage of the people of Cambridge – R.J. Flood 88 04 14

1988 05 19

The Merton Arms pub in Northampton Street, which belongs to St John's College, will closed at the end of September. It is one of the few pubs in the city centre which provide bed and breakfast. Now it may be converted into student accommodation 88 05 19

1988 07 11

Castle Park, Cambridge's showpiece research and development village was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh. Developed by Sheraton and financed by Royal Life, it was designed to provide 'thinking space' for scientists and academics involved in high-technology developments. The initiative came from the County Council who were faced with the need to provide more office accommodation for its staff and developed land adjoining Shire Hall. The first phase, Castle House, Babbage House and Sheraton House was completed last year 88 07 11b, c. d

1988 07 12

St Luke's, one of Cambridge's most prominent Victorian churches in Victoria Road, is to be converted into a community centre for the whole of the parish of the Ascension,. formed in 1982 by the union with St Giles and St Peter. The adjacent United Reformed Church will be demolished and the land sold for housing. There are no plans to amalgamate the two congregations who will share the new-look church. 88 07 12a

1988 08 13

Cambridge & County Folk Museum is facing a cash crisis. Curator Tom Doig says the situation is so desperate he may have to close the 500-year-old museum in Castle Street before Christmas. The County Council has refused any funding and the City has cut its grant, meaning he can no longer afford to pay staff.. The Mayor said is it outrageous that they can't find the money to keep it going The museum is of great importance as an educational resource and it would be a tragedy if it were to close 88 08 13, 88 08 17, 88 08 17a

1988 09 23

The Merton Arms in Northampton Street is closing because the owners, St John's College, has not released the lease held by Greene King. 88 09 23a # c.27.4

1989 10 01

The controversial Cambridge park and ride scheme has started with a whimper. At peak commuter time there were 17 cars at the 400-space Cowley Road and even fewer at the 150-space car park on Clifton Road. Users were enthusiastic: Sophy Moxley of Willingham, a sales assistant, said "It will save me money because it only costs 50p which is cheaper than parking in the city centre though Steve Field from Stretham says it is inconvenient as you don't have access to our car during the day. Councillor Andrew Duff said the area around Castle Hill, where residents-only zones have been introduced, was 'almost pastoral' though Canterbury and Benson Street were packed with cars. 89 10 01

1989 10 10

Lucy Cavendish's Oldham Hall opened – 89 10 10

1990 05 22

West's of Cambridge founded 65 years ago; started Gloucester Street in 1925, moved Newmarket Road when took Renault dealership 1959 – 90 05 22a

1990 10 05

Lucy Cavendish College silver jubilee – college heads – 90 10 05a